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THE
INTEREST
OF
SCOTLAND
CONSIDERED, *R.*

With Regard to

Its POLICE in Em- ploying of the Poor, Its AGRICULTURE,		Its TRADE, Its MANUFACTURES, and FISHERIES.
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*By Patrick Lindsay - L^d Provost &
member of parliament for Edinburgh*

*Go to the Ant, thou Sluggard; consider her Ways, and be
wise: Which having no Guide, Overseer, or Ruler, pro-
videth her Meat in the Summer, and gathereth her Food
in the Harvest. Prov. vi. 6, 7, 8.*

1733 -
L O N D O N :

Printed for T. WOODWARD, at the Half-Moon
between the two Temple Gates in Fleet-street;
and J. PEELE, at Locke's Head in Amen-Corner,
Pater-noster Row. 1736.

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W. Augustave.

Duplicate

A circular stamp from the British Museum, containing the text "MVSEVM BRITAN NICVM" in a serif font, arranged in three lines.



TO the RIGHT HONOURABLE

ARCHIBALD Earl of *Ilay*,

Lord *Oronsy*, *Dunoon*, and *Aros*,

Lord Justice-General of SCOTLAND,
Lord Keeper of the *Great Seal*, and
One of His Majesty's most Honourable
Privy Council.

My LORD,



PERSONS remarkably
distinguished for great
and eminent Abilities to
serve the Publick, be-
come thereby Debtors to the
Publick; and this is a Debt never
to be discharged, because every

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good Office done, lays a Foundation for a new Demand. To whom can a People apply for national Benefits? Where can they sue for Encouragements from the Publick, for the Advancement of Trade, and the Improvement and Extension of Manufacture, but to such Patriots as have discovered a generous Inclination, as well as a Capacity to procure them?

THE Appropriation of certain Funds by Parliament, for encouraging our Fisheries and Manufactures, is the greatest national Good that has been done for this Country since the Union of the Crowns. The good Effects of the Application of these Funds are universally and sensibly felt: Our Linnen Trade is already improv'd,
even

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even beyond our Expectation ; altho, in some Respects, we may be said, as yet, to have done little more than to make a full Discovery of our Faults and Imperfections. Some Improvements in several Parts of the Trade, formerly unknown to us, have been introduced, and are but introduced : But the complete Manufacture, in all its Parts, must be carefully cherished and nursed up to Perfection, or some of the most valuable Parts of it may be still in Danger of being lost.

THIS Country, my Lord, lies under many and great Obligations to Your Lordship ; and, from a just Sense of these, I humbly beg Leave, in the Name of Your Country, to become a Suitor to Your Lord-

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ship in its Behalf : That this great and good Work, so happily begun, and successfully carried on, under the Favour of Your Countenance and Protection, may, by Your Lordship's Assistance, have all its Defects supplied, and Faults amended, and be, in due Time, brought to full Maturity and Perfection.

THIS is true Patriotism without Alloy, to make a People rich and happy by their own Labour ; to make a Country flourish by the Encouragement of Industry and fair Dealing ; and, by the Suppression of Vice and Idleness, to make a Nation powerful, and its Inhabitants free and independent.

THE several Matters and Purposes spoken of in the following Discourse

DEDICATION.

Discourse, are presented to Your Lordship in a simple and homely Dress; but I must plead the Importance of the Subject to the Publick, by way of Apology, for mine own Imperfections, and hope the Sincerity of my Intentions to promote the common Good of my Country, may be accepted of, as an Atonement for the Weakness of the Performance; which is, with great Submission, most humbly offered to Your Lordship's Consideration, by,

My LORD,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

And most humble Servant,

The AUTHOR.

Edinburgh, Sept.
15, 1733.

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DEDICATION.

Discount is a simple and homely
thing, but I must yield the im-
portance of the subject to the
publicly by way of a dedication.
I have not a single word to say
of my own work, but I have to
say that it is a simple and homely
thing, but I must yield the im-
portance of the subject to the
publicly by way of a dedication.

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PREFACE.

 ANY and just Complaints have been made of our Poverty, and the Decay of our Trade; and of the Decrease of our People, for want of Business to employ and subsist them. This is imputed, and justly, to the great Use of Foreign Manufactures for Wearing Apparel, Furniture, &c. whereby the Poor of other Countries are partly employed at our Expence. The manufactured Goods we export bear no Proportion in Value to those we bring in; we must therefore send out our Product to purchase Cloathing for the Rich, while the Poor must either starve at home,

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home, or go abroad to seek their Bread, where it is to be earned by Labour and Industry.

MANY Schemes have been framed to cure these Evils, but in vain. Numbers of Gentlemen have, at different Times, entered into Resolutions, to use no Foreign Manufactures : But these could have no Effect, because we had no Manufactures of our own to serve them ; nor indeed can any Nation, where the Poor are employed in Manufacture, serve itself with every thing. It is enough to have one Staple which sells to Advantage in Foreign Parts, and to be capable to export it in such Quantities, as may be equal in Value to all the Foreign Goods we consume at home. An Attempt of this Kind would be to hurt and ruin our Staple. Where too many Irons are in the Fire at once, some of them must cool ; and where the Staple Manufacture of a Country is neglected, and no other Branches of Business brought to Perfection, the Whole will run a Risk of being lost : for Mankind,
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generally speaking, prefer their own private Interest to that of the Publick, and will hardly be prevailed on to buy the Manufactures of their own Country, if Foreign Goods of the same Kind, and of the same, or of a better Quality, are to be purchased at a lower Rate. Every one buys where he finds his Commodity best and cheapest; and unless our own Manufactures are as good of their Kinds, and as low in their Prices, as the same Goods of other Nations are, they will not sell either abroad or at home. Trade cannot be forced, but Manufacture may be improv'd.

LINNEEN Cloth is our Staple Commodity, and a Manufacture we have been possessed of, now, Time out of Mind: It is carried on by private Hands, the only Way in which a Manufacture can thrive or prosper; it is a Commodity of universal Use at home, and of great Demand at those Markets abroad, where we purchase Foreign Goods of divers Kinds, which we neither can want, nor can we make them ourselves without Loss; it is
a Manu-

a Manufacture capable of employing all our spare Hands; and, was it fully improv'd and extended, it would be sufficient to answer all our Demands for Foreign Commodities. But it has been miserably neglected and discouraged; it has suffered from many Causes, and from none more, than the indiscreet and fruitless Attempts that have been made, to introduce other Manufactures, which are already brought to Perfection, and carried on with all possible Advantages by other Nations, and by these inconsiderate Resolutions to furnish our selves with every thing, without the Aid of Foreign Trade.

HAD all the Money that has been sunk and lost by publick and private Companies, and private Persons, upon these Projects, been employed in the Improvement and Extension of the Linnen Trade; those Evils we have so long complained of, had been long ere now cured and prevented; but our Thoughts were, from time to time, turned upon new Projects, which we pushed up Hill with great Eagerness, until they became too heavy

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heavy for us: while our Linnen Trade, which we could have carried on with Profit and Success, was entirely neglected. Ever since the Beginning of the Confusions in the Reign of King *Charles I.* it has been upon the Decay, and our Manufactures of Silk Goods, fine Broad Cloths, and several others of less Moment, which were introduced at a great Expence, and too long carried on with Loss to the Nation, have nevertheless, in a great Measure, totally failed. We have been long sensible of this; and the present Generation saw the Linnen Manufacture reduced to a very low Ebb: but saw an evident Possibility of retrieving it, if we bent all our Thoughts that Way. This was our Condition, when the Royal Boroughs, who are the Guardians of our Trade, took under their serious Consideration the State of our Trade and Manufactures, in their general annual Convention held at *Edinburgh* in *July*, in the Year 1725. and in several subsequent Meetings of their grand annual Committee in that Year.

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THE Society for the Improvement of Agriculture, and several private Persons, who understood Trade and Manufactures of different Sorts, gave in Proposals and Schemes for the retrieving our Manufactures and Fisheries, to these Meetings; and Committees of that Society, and other Gentlemen, from several Parts of the Country, likewise attended and assisted at these Meetings: The Result of all which was, that in their Meeting the Seventeenth of *February*, 1725-6. they unanimously resolved to address his Majesty, and to make a proper Application, by their Representatives in Parliament, and other Persons of Distinction then at *London*, who were capable to serve their Country, to have the Monies (settled by Law for the encouraging of our Manufactures) effectually applied for that Purpose, in such a Manner, as that all Misapplication of them might be absolutely prevented; and the Royal Boroughs appointed one of their Number to repair to *London*, at their Expence, to make this Application effectual.

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THE Effect of this was, that his late Majesty was graciously pleased to write the following Letter to the Royal Boroughs, which was presented to the Convention by his Majesty's Advocate, one of their Number, upon the Sixth of *July*, 1726.

Supercribed *George R.*

“ TRUSTY and well-beloved, We greet
“ you well. We having observed, that the
“ several Sums of Money reserved and pro-
“ vided by the Treaty of Union, and by di-
“ vers Acts of Parliament, to be employed for
“ the Improvement of Fisheries and Manu-
“ factures in *Scotland*, have not hitherto been
“ applied to the Uses for which they were
“ intended ; principally, because no particu-
“ lar Plan or Method hath been concerted,
“ directing the Manner in which those Sums
“ should be applied for the said Purposes.
“ And being desirous to remove that Hin-
“ drance, as speedily as may be, We have
“ thought good to recommend it to you,
“ that, at your first general Meeting in the
“ Month of *July* next, you do take into
“ your

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“ your Consideration the State of the said
“ Fisheries and Manufactures, and of the
“ Monies provided for encouraging the same;
“ and that, by yourselves, or by Committees
“ of your Number, you do devise and pro-
“ pose the particular Methods, Rules, and
“ Regulations, which to you shall seem the
“ most proper, for the Application of the
“ said Sums towards the encouraging and
“ promoting Fisheries, and such other Ma-
“ nufactures and Improvements in *Scotland*,
“ as shall most conduce to the general Good
“ of the united Kingdom; and that you do
“ return to us the Propositions in which you
“ shall have agreed, to the End, that, upon
“ due Consideration thereof, a certain Me-
“ thod may be settled for the Application
“ and Management of those Sums for the
“ future. The Welfare of Our loving
“ People of *Scotland*, and the Prosperity of
“ the Royal Boroughs, is so much concerned
“ in what We recommend to you, that We
“ doubt not you will go on in the Execution
“ of what is expected from you, with the
“ utmost Diligence, Unanimity, and Impar-
“ tiality :

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“ tiality: And, on Our Part, We assure
“ you of Our Countenance and Encourage-
“ ment in what you shall propose for the
“ real Good of your Country, consistent
“ with the general Interest of our united
“ Kingdom. And so we bid you heartily
“ farewell. Given at our Court of *Kensington*
“ the Seventh Day of *July*, 1726. in
“ the Twelfth Year of Our Reign. Counter-
“ signed by his Majesty’s Command,

“ *Holles Newcastle.*

THE same Day that this Letter was read,
the Convention prepared and agreed upon
an Answer, wherein they expressed their
great Joy and Gratitude to his Majesty, for
his tender Concern for the Welfare of this
Country, and for that particular Instance of
his great Goodness towards them, which
must fill the Hearts of all his loyal Subjects
in this Part of *Britain*; and promised, with
great Cheerfulness, to prepare, without Loss
of Time, by themselves and Committees of
their Number, Propositions to be laid before

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his Majesty, for answering the Ends of his Majesty's most gracious Intentions.

“ UPON the Eighth of *July* a large
 “ Committee was appointed to consider and
 “ devise such Methods as might most effec-
 “ tually answer his Majesty's most gracious
 “ Intention of encouraging the Trade of
 “ Fishing, and other Manufactures of this
 “ Part of the united Kingdom, and im-
 “ powered them to receive Proposals relative
 “ thereto, from any particular Royal Bo-
 “ rough, or any other Society, or private
 “ Persons, &c.

“ ON the Twelfth of *July* particular In-
 “ structions were drawn up for this Com-
 “ mittee, who were to sit after the Rising of
 “ the Convention, and were appointed to
 “ have their Plan in Readiness to be laid be-
 “ fore the next Convention, which was
 “ then appointed to meet at *Edinburgh* upon
 “ the first *Wednesday* of *November* follow-
 “ ing. This Committee was directed to take
 “ the Advice and Assistance of, and to con-
 sult

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“ sult with all Persons who had Skill and
“ Experience in any of the Branches of
“ Trade or Manufacture, that might be pro-
“ posed to be improved; and were specially
“ directed in their Plan to propose a Method
“ for the Application of the whole Monies
“ that might annually arise for the Purposes
“ intended by his Majesty, in such Manner,
“ as the Distribution might be diffusive,
“ and secured effectually against Misappli-
“ cation; and, as it might not be charged
“ with the ordinary Expence of Manage-
“ ment, it being the Intention of the Con-
“ vention, from their earnest Desire to pro-
“ mote the publick Good, and thereby, to
“ the utmost of their Power, to second his
“ Majesty’s gracious Intentions, voluntarily
“ to propose, that they should defray the
“ ordinary Expence of Management.”

THIS Committee met very often to re-
ceive and consider Proposals that were sent
them from different Places of the Country,
upon the Subject-matters committed to them;
and, at all those Meetings, several Gentle-

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men, skilled in Trade and Manufactures, who were not Members, assisted; and upon the Eighth of *November*, 1726. they presented to the general Convention a particular Plan for the Distribution and Application of the several Funds destined by Law for the Improvement of Fisheries and Manufactures, to be laid before his Majesty; which, after due Consideration, and some Amendments made, was approved of by the Convention. The Sum of this Plan is ingrossed in his present Majesty's Letters Patents, bearing Date at *St. James's*, *July* 5. which passed the Seals *July* 18, 1727.

THE Convention, at the same Time, appointed their annual Committee to prepare the Heads of an Act of Parliament for regulating the Linnen-manufacture; and the annual Committee did, the same Day, pursuant to the Powers and Instructions given them by the Convention, take under their Consideration, “ That the future Happiness and
“ Welfare of their Country very much depended on the Success of their Proposals,
“ and

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“ and that it was their Duty to do every
“ Thing in their Power to make the same
“ effectual; and did authorize and impower
“ one of their Number to repair to *London*
“ upon their Expence; and there, in Name
“ and Behalf of the Royal Boroughs, to lay
“ before his Majesty, in Obedience to his
“ most gracious Letter, the general and par-
“ ticular Plans agreed upon by the Conven-
“ tion, for promoting the Fisheries and
“ other Manufactures of this Part of the
“ united Kingdom, and Distribution of the
“ Funds to the particular Purposes therein
“ mentioned, and to endeavour to obtain
“ such Acts of Parliament as might be most
“ effectual for promoting, encouraging, and
“ regulating the Linnen Trade, agreeable to
“ the Heads then approved by the said
“ Committee.” All which are contained
in the said Act of Parliament itself, which
was past that same Session of Parliament;
and this Act was printed by itself, and several
Thousand Copies of it were dispersed.

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IN Consequence of this Application from the Royal Boroughs, another Act of Parliament was past that same Session, directing the Appropriation of all the Funds formerly provided by Parliament (which till then had never been applied) to the several Purposes for which they were designed. These Funds are severally enumerated in the Act itself, and are particularly resumed in his Majesty's Letters Patents before-mentioned, wherein, pursuant to the Powers vested in the Crown by the said Act, the several Uses and Purposes to which they are to be applied, are specially directed; and, agreeable to the Act, Twenty-one Commissioners and Trustees are therein named and appointed, and the several Matters committed to their Trust, are therein likewise specially directed: And I shall here beg Leave to refer the Reader, for his better Information, to the Patent itself, which was printed by Order of the Trustees.

THESE Commissioners and Trustees, pursuant to the Directions of the Charter, held
their

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their first Meeting in the Borough Room at *Edinburgh* upon the Twentieth of *July*, 1727. and then proceeded to lay down proper Rules and Methods for their own Procedure, and directed Books to be prepared for that Purpose. In Concert with the Royal Boroughs they made Choice of a well-qualified Gentleman to be their Secretary, whose Conduct ever since has very much justified their Choice. His Sufficiency, Diligence, Accuracy, and Exactness, and singular Fidelity in the Discharge of this great Trust committed to him, have given universal Satisfaction.

THE Trustees, in Obedience to the Directions given them by their Charter, applied themselves directly to the first Part of their Work, *namely*, to prepare and form a particular Plan of Distribution of the Funds, upon the several Conditions therein specially set forth. This Plan was finished, printed, and published the Seventeenth of *November*, 1727. to which I also beg Leave to refer the Reader for a full Information.

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THE Rules and Regulations, appointed, by the Act of Parliament, to be observed in the Linnen-manufacture, took Place the First of *November*, in the same Year 1727. Since this Period, we have happily turned our Eyes upon the Improvement of our Manufactures, which is now a common Subject in Discourse, and this contributes not a little to its Success. People do thereby pick up by Degrees Knowledge and Information of our Faults and Defects in the Management of our Manufactures, and of the proper Ways to cure and amend them.

THE Trustees bestow their Time and Attendance upon the Service of the Publick without Fee or Reward. And I observe, from their Minutes, that their Meetings are regular and frequent. It appears almost from every *Sederunt*, that their Service is of great Use and Importance to the Country, and contributes greatly to advance the Improvement and Extension of our Fisheries and Manufactures of every Kind. Many missive Letters, for the Solution of Doubts and Questions,

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Questions, Petitions and Applications for Encouragements of various Kinds, upon different Branches, &c. Memorials and Complaints of Abuses, Defects, slovenly and unprofitable Practices in the Management of many Parts of the Manufacture, and Proposals of Improvements, and of the most frugal and expeditious Methods of carrying on several Branches to the best Advantage, are frequently sent to the Secretary from every Corner of the Country. And I observe, from their Minutes, that all these are always duly weighed and considered by the Trustees; and Satisfaction, by regular Answers, given to the Persons who send them. The good Effects of a Correspondence of this Kind are obvious.

I MIGHT here enter into a particular Detail of the whole Proceedings of the Trustees, from the Commencement of their Trust to this Time, were it not that such an Account would swell this Preface to a greater Length than the Discourse it self; and that their whole Conduct, in the Distribution

bution and Application of the Funds, under their Care, in each Year, is summed up in their annual Report to the King; and that, pursuant to the Directions of his Majesty's Charter, a Duplicate or true Copy of this Report is annually given in, within thirty Days after *Christmas*, to the annual Committee of the Royal Boroughs, and is by them laid before the general Convention in *July* thereafter, where it lies upon the Table during the Sitting of the Convention, to be perused by all the Members; and that these Reports are all in the Hands of the Clerks to the Royal Boroughs, where any Person may have Access to see them; any Person may likewise have Access to the Minutes of Procedure of the Trustees, at any Time, in the Hands of their Secretary.

PERSONS of all Ranks express, on many Occasions, a generous Concern for the Publick Good, and an honest Curiosity to be particularly informed of the State and Progress of our Manufactures, since they have become the Objects of the Care and Concern

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cern of the Publick ; what Effects the Observation of the Regulations of the Linnen Act of Parliament has had upon the Improvement of Linnen Cloth in its Quality ; what new Branches of that Trade, formerly unknown to us, have been introduced at the publick Charge ; how far these are already improv'd ; and what other Parts are still to be introduced, improv'd, and extended ; and how far the Application of the publick Funds, destined by Law for the Encouragement of our Fisheries and Manufactures, have already contributed towards these Ends.

MANY are desirous, and have been long expecting, to see something published upon this Head ; and the Author observing that nothing of that Kind hath hitherto appeared, he lately resolv'd, notwithstanding the just Sense he has of his own Unfitness for the Performance, to bestow as much Time, as his necessary Attendance upon his own private Affairs would allow him, to reduce his Observations on this Subject, in which
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he has been pretty much conversant, to Writing, to the end that others of better Skill, and more Knowledge in these Matters, may be excited to publish something of the same Kind to better Purpose. And now, that nothing of this Sort appears from any other Hand, he has adventured to send it abroad, such as it is, and submits it to every Reader, who, he hopes, will consider it with the same View he had in it; namely, to create a Spirit of Industry and Diligence in the People, to promote the Improvement and Extension of our Manufactures, at least of such of them as are, or may be, carried on with the greatest Profit, upon which the Happiness and Prosperity of this Country depends.

IN the first Part, he takes Notice of Idleness, and the bad Effects of it, as it hurts Individuals, and as it affects the whole Body of the People nationally; and proposes a few Rules of Police, for suppressing of Theft and Begging, and imploying of the Poor in Work-houses. He then speaks of
the

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the Causes of the Non-improvement of our Grounds, and of the great Advantages of Agriculture; and proposes the same Method for the Improvement of our Lands, by which the Estates of *England* were at first improved.

IN the second Part, he treats of Industry as the Source of national Wealth and Power, and of the common Motives to Industry; of Trade and Manufactures in general, of our Trade in particular, and of the Staple Manufactures of *England*, and of this Country; of the Causes of the Neglect and Non-improvement of our Staple; of such Branches of Manufactures as are now carried on with Loss; of several Trades that now are, and are liable to be overstocked, and proposes some Methods to prevent this; of the Improvement and Extension of our Staple, as the only Way to employ all our spare Hands of every Condition; of the Plantation Trade, and the great Benefit of these Settlements in *America* to their Mother Country, especially if they were duly encouraged to
raise

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raise Materials for Home Manufactures ;
of the Necessity of the Improvement and
Extension of the Manufacture of home-
made Linnen Cloth in *Scotland, England, and*
Ireland.

IN the third Part, he gives a particular
Account of the State and Condition of the
Linnen Manufacture of this Country, as it
is at this Time, and of its Progress since the
first of *November, 1727.* Upon Perusal of
this Part since it was printed, he observes
something, he intended to have spoke of,
omitted ; namely, a bad Practice in the Sale
of Linnen Yarn, of false and short Tale,
notwithstanding the Directions of the Act
of Parliament to the contrary.

THIS is said to be owing to the Use of
Hand-reels, a Method of making up Yarn
so uncertain and precarious, that no Persons
who use them can possibly be exact in their
Numbers of Threads. No Buyer can pre-
tend to tell the Threads of every Cut of
Yarn he buys ; much less can the Stamp-
master

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master controul the Tale of all the Yarn that is presented to Sale in a Fair or Market; and as Yarn can be subjected to no Stamp, or other certain Check, if the Buyer discover not the Fraud until he come to sort his Yarn for Use, it will then be too late for him to recur upon the Seller.

THE most probable Way to cure and prevent this Evil, is to introduce the Practice of Check-reels every where; and if the Funds appropriated for encouraging the Linnen Trade might allow it, it is proposed that the Trustees, for the more speedy furnishing of the Country with Check-reels, might give annually a certain Number, by way of Prizes upon Spinning, in the same Way that Spinning Wheels are proposed to be given at the small Spinning Schools: And when any Alteration or Amendment of the Linnen Act of Parliament is proposed, the Use of Hand-reels may be discharged, and every false Tale of Yarn subjected to a severe Penalty; because every Mistake in a Check-reel must be made with a fraudulent Intention to deceive the Buyer.

ANOTHER

ANOTHER Practice discharged by Law, still prevails in several Places in the North, that proves a Loss to the Spinners, which is the Use of the eleven-quarter Reel, altho' the Act directs, " That all Yarn shall be
 " made up by the ten-quarter Reel, being
 " two Yards and an half, or ninety Inches
 " in Circumference ; and that all Reels,
 " where-ever found, other than $2\frac{1}{2}$ Yards,
 " or 90 Inches in Circumference, shall, at
 " the Sight of the proper Officer, be de-
 " stroyed, and all Yarn otherwise made up
 " shall be confiscated." All Stamp-masters ought therefore to be strictly enjoined to make diligent Search for all such illegal Reels, and to seize all Yarn otherwise made up than as the Law directs.

THE Use of Weights and Scales is the only sure Way to prove Yarn, both as to its Quantity and Fineness ; every good Weaver uses this Method in making up a Parcel of Yarn for every Piece of Cloth, because it discovers, to a Certainty, if all the Yarn intended to be used in the same
 Piece

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Piece is precisely of the same Fineness: For two equal Quantities, or Cuts of Yarn, containing the same Number of Threads each, and each Thread of the same Length, if they differ in Weight, must also differ in Fineness. This Practice would likewise be of great Use to the Dealers in Yarn; they have no more to do than to tell one Cut, and to prove all the rest by Weight with it; and every Cut that differs in Weight, must likewise differ either in Fineness, or in Tale and Quantity.

THE Parliament of *Ireland* give great Funds for the Improvement of their Linnen Manufacture; no Defect is sooner discovered, that can be supplied by Encouragement, than it is done. The Trustees in *Ireland* gave, at one Time, 10000 Check-reels, which were all made, and sent and distributed to the Spinners, in different Places of the Country, at the Publick Charge; they also at several times have made great Numbers of good Looms, completely mounted, of the best Kind, and

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give

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give them *gratis* to the best Weavers. They are likewise careful to remove, by publick Laws, every thing that has the least Appearance of a Discouragement to the Linnen Trade. They, by Act of Parliament, exempted Linnen Cloth of every Kind from the Payment of all petty Customs, or small Duties, that were in Use to be paid upon it at weekly Markets and Country Fairs.

THIS Act well deserves our Consideration, to put our Linnen Trade upon the same Footing of Freedom and Immunity with that of *Ireland*. Those petty Duties are a Part of the Revenue of those Boroughs and Towns, where Linnen Cloth and Linnen Yarn are sold at weekly Markets and Fairs; and a very small Part of the Revenue they are; for the collecting of them costs very near as much as they yield. The Manner of raising those small Customs, occasions frequent Complaints and Disputes between the Dealers and Collectors, which hurt the Dealers, in their Imagination, and the Communities themselves in Reality:

For

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For when the Dealers take Offence, they often fall on Ways to dispose of their Goods, without bringing them to Market; and this so far diminishes the Trade, and the Consumption of Provisions in those Towns where the Markets and Fairs are held.

THE Town Council of *Dundee* had this Matter under their Consideration some Years ago; and, very wisely, they remitted the Duties that used to be paid on Linnen Cloth. They struck this small Branch of their Revenue out of their Rent-roll, and exempted Linnen Goods of every Kind from the Payment of Custom of every Kind. The Effect of this was, that Numbers of Country Weavers, who used to carry their Cloth for Sale to the Towns that lie nearest them, where the same Duties are still levied, do now bring their Cloth to *Dundee*, altho' it lies at a much greater Distance from them.

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I MUST humbly beg Leave to submit this, with the other Matters proposed in the following Discourse, to the Consideration of the Royal Boroughs in their next General Convention, to be held in *July* 1734. They are the Guardians of Trade and Manufacture, and the chief Gainers and Losers by both : And when this Matter is duly weighed, they will, no doubt, prefer their real Interest (which obviously depends upon the Improvement and Extension of our Staple Manufacture) to this imaginary Branch of a Trifle of Revenue, scarce worth collecting, and prepare a proper Application to Parliament, for exempting Linnen Goods of every Kind from the Payment of all Duties and petty Customs whatever, either at weekly Markets, or in Country Fairs.

THE Parliament of *Ireland* did likewise, (for the Encouragement of Weavers) by a publick Law, allow any Weaver to set up and carry on his Trade in any Town or Incorporation in the Kingdom, where-ever he pleased,

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pleased, notwithstanding any Monopolies or seclufive Privileges, that had been formerly granted in Favour of any Company or Corporation of Weavers. The Weavers in this City are indeed exceeding easy upon this Head ; they are in Use to admit any good Tradesman to the Freedom of their Incorporation, upon Terms that are easy and reasonable : But if any Foreigner or Stranger, who is a good Weaver, inclined to fet up his Trade in any Town or Burgh, without being a Freeman or a Member of the Incorporation ; it would prove a very great Encouragement to the Linnen Manufacture, if they were allowed to work and carry on their Trade, where they imagined they could do it to the best Advantage, upon this fingle Condition on their Part, *Refidence*, and weaving of good Cloth, as the Law directs : And if all Weavers were likewise exempted from all publick Burdens, and Parish Offices, it would be the better, and contribute much to encrease their Number.

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It is observed, that any diligent young Lad, of an ordinary Genius, who applies himself close to his Business, can work and finish a Piece of Cloth very well under the Direction of a good Master, when he has been but two Years at the Trade: But it is found from Experience, that no Man ought to be entrusted to sort and size a Parcel of Yarn, to warp, put in the Loom, weave and finish a Piece of Cloth by himself, before he has wrought constantly six or seven Years at least under the Eye of a skilful Master. It is therefore proposed, when any Amendment is made to the Linnen Act, that there ought to be a Clause in it to this Purpose; to restrain any Weaver from setting up as a Master, until he has wrought constantly under a good Master or Masters for the Space of seven Years, and then to be allowed to practise their Trade as Masters where-ever they please, upon finding Bail, as the Law directs, to conform themselves to the Observation of all the Rules and Regulations contained in the Linnen Act of Parliament.

I N

The P R E F A C E. xxxi

IN the fourth and last Part of this Discourse, the Author takes notice of the Advantages of our Situation in an Island, that our Security depends chiefly upon our naval Force, and that our Navigation depends chiefly upon our Fisheries; which ought therefore with great Care to be encouraged. He speaks of several Discouragements and Hardships, that several Branches of our Fisheries labour under at present; and proposes some Methods for relieving them, and several probable Ways for improving and extending our Fishing Trade in every Branch, by proper Encouragement.

THROUGHOUT the whole of this Discourse, the Author has spoke his Mind, with Freedom, of our Abuses, bad Habits, and of the unfrugal Practices of our Tradesmen, and Dealers of different Kinds, as they occurred to him; and in this, he hopes, he has given no Offence, as it is apparent, from his Manner of Writing, he intended none. It is a Privilege peculiar to the Subjects of free States, to speak or

xxxii *The PREFACE.*

write what they think, and to publish what they write, so long as they observe the Rules of Decency, and express that Regard and Respect for Dignities, and Persons of high Rank, and in high Offices, that the Nature, Peace, and good Order of every civil Society requires.

THE Liberty, or Servitude of a Nation, appears as much from their Writings, as from any other Part of their Conduct in Life. Free States are liable to be disturbed by Faction, and Party Struggles for Power and Publick Employments: And their Writers, especially of History and Biography, discover a Bias for that Side, to which they are attached; but both Parties speak out their Sentiments with great Boldness and Freedom. Indecent Liberties are often taken with Men in Power, and even these are sometimes of Use; they serve to check and controul the Conduct of great Men, to put them on their Guard, to confine themselves, in all their Actions, within the Bounds prescribed by Law, which is their greatest Security.

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Security. The Conduct of Princes, Ministers, and other great Men, is, in free States, variously represented, as the several Writers affect; but, by comparing the Accounts of both Sides, the Truth is easily discerned.

WHEREAS, under arbitrary Governments, their Writings are stuffed with Panegyrick, and fulsom Flattery: Every Man in Power is a great and a good Man, at least so long as his Power remains with him; and the worst and weakest of Princes are dubbed with the Characters of the best and greatest, so long as they live. The same Characters are given to a *Julius Cæsar*, or an *Oliver Cromwell* (who betrayed their Country, and trampled upon Law and Liberty) that properly belong to a *George Castriot*, a *William Wallace*, or a Prince of *Orange*, who spent their Lives in the Defence of Law and Liberty, and devoted themselves to the Service of their Country, to rescue the People from Servitude, and the Bondage of a foreign Yoke.

W H E N

XXXIV *The P R E F A C E.*

WHEN an enslaved Nation have the rare Happiness to be blest with the Reign of a *Titus*, or a *Trajan*; then, and not till then, the Truth and true Characters of former Tyrants come out: Then the Spirit of Liberty revives, and Truth is allowed to walk abroad in Day-light, during the short Season of such a Sun-shine. This is apparent from the Writings of *Tacitus*, where the justest Sentiments of Liberty, and the strongest Disposition to assert it, appear almost in every Page: But so strong an Impression do the Restraints of Tyrants make upon the Minds of Men, that *Tacitus* appears, on many Occasions, to be under a kind of Awe and Dread of going too far: So terrible is uncontrollable Power, even in the Hands of the best of Princes.

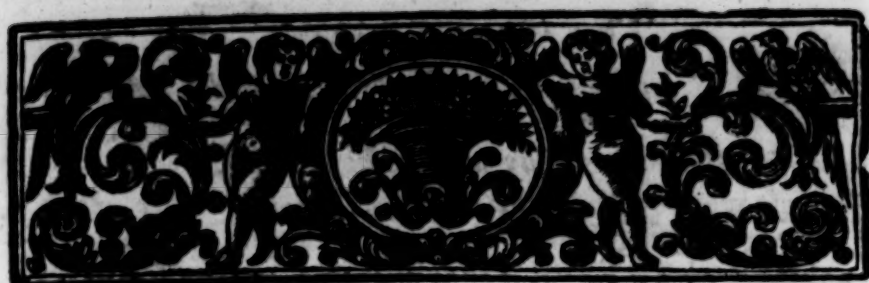
THE Author submits his Observations, upon the several Subjects he treats of, to the Examination and Judgment of every candid and impartial Reader; and hopes, those who discover any Errors, Mistakes, Defects, or Omissions, will publish their
Remarks

The P R E F A C E. XXXV

Remarks with the same Intention that he has done, *for the Benefit of the Publick* : Or if they encline not to put themselves to that Trouble, if they transmit them to Mr. *Flint*, Secretary to the Trustees, where the Author may have Access to see them, they may be published by way of an Appendix or Supplement to this Discourse ; or if another Edition shall be wanted, by way of Notes, in the proper Places to which they refer.



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THE
Interest of SCOTLAND
CONSIDERED, &c.

*Oh! is there not some Patriot, in whose Power
That best, that godlike Luxury is plac'd,
Of blessing Thousands, Thousands yet unborn,
Thro' late Posterity? Some, large of Soul!
To cheer dejected Industry? To give
A double Harvest to the pining Swain?
And teach the labouring Hand the Sweets of Toil?*
THOMSON'S Seasons.



INDOLENCE is the Source of almost every Mischief that afflicts human Nature; it is the Parent of Poverty and Want; and these never fail to beget Envy, Complaint, and Murmur, which by Degrees ripen into popular Clamour and Sedition; and prepare

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prepare and dispose the idle Multitude, as proper and forward Tools, in the Hands of Faction, to disturb the publick Peace, and involve a Nation in Misery and Ruin: Even Pride itself, that Bane of Society, and chief Spring of Ambition, and all the Rapine, Slaughter, Oppression, and other dismal Scenes of Desolation, that attend foreign Conquest, or civil War, which flow from Ambition, is nursed and cherished by Idleness. Idleness teems with Vice, and brings forth Distress and Misery, the unavoidable and certain Effects of Vice. Where-ever Idleness reigns, few and wretched are the People. In short, as Wealth and Numbers, the chief Strength and Happiness of a Nation, are increased by Industry; so Depopulation, and every thing that renders a Nation despicable, may be said to flow from Idleness.

MAN is naturally active and restless; and when he is not usefully employed, he rarely avoids the doing of Hurt and Mischief to himself or others. It is our indispensable Duty, as well as Interest, to be industrious; *In sudore vultus tui panem vesceris.* Altho' Nature furnishes us abundantly with Materials, yet our own Industry and Labour is required to fit them for our Use. *He that will not work, ought not to eat;* and whoever labours not for his own Bread, must eat the Bread

Scotland *considered*, &c. 3

Bread of others, and thereby unjustly invades his Neighbour's Property; wherefore the Rulers of every State ought, by all possible Means, to discourage Idleness in the People as their chief Care: For where a Spirit of Industry is once raised amongst the People; and where honest Labour, Diligence, and Assiduity in Business, are held in Esteem; so long as those great Avenues to national Power are carefully guarded, and secured by publick Laws, the Management of foreign Affairs will become easy.

A STATE remarkable for Wealth, and Numbers of People; where the common Rights and Liberties of the Subject are secured by good Laws; where as much Equality is preserved amongst the Subjects, as the Nature and Security of Property will admit of; where Men are indulged in the free Exercise of such their particular Opinions, as disturb not the Peace of Society, or are hurtful to the common Interests of their Neighbours; and where the Unanimity and common Concern of the Subjects for the publick Interest is preserved, by a mild, steady, and impartial Administration; such a Nation will be ever esteemed and feared by neighbouring States; its Friendship will be courted, its Enmity dreaded; such a State is for the most part successful in foreign Negotiations; and
Treaties

Treaties once entered into will not be rashly violated, where so effectual Means to chastise a faithless Ally do subsist; nor will Wars be unreasonably undertaken against a Nation, that is able, in the Opinion of the World, to bring an obstinate Foe to Reason.

UNDER arbitrary Governments Idleness is indeed unavoidable: For the Breath of Tyranny, like Poison, or a Plague, blasts and destroys every Thing that is virtuous and beneficial to Mankind. Where the Properties of the Subject are liable to the violent, fraudulent, or other unjust Seizure of an arbitrary Prince, or of his more arbitrary Officers and Servants; few Men will carry their Labour further than to answer the necessary Demands of Life: No Man will labour for another; nor is Wealth to be expected, where it renders the Possessor obnoxious to Envy, and may become a Prey to the Avarice of a rapacious Minister: Few Men indeed chuse to live under such Governments; nor do many stay, who may safely and conveniently withdraw themselves. And hence it is, that so many fine Countries of the World, where uncontrollable Power is established, are at this Day mere Desarts: But in free Countries, where the Properties of the Subject are secured by the same Laws, that ascertain and measure the Power of the civil Magistrate; Men are encouraged to labour; because they
are

are absolutely assured of the Enjoyment of the Fruits of their Labour. While these Motives to Industry subsist, the Fund for carrying it on will never be drained. The expensive Comforts and Conveniencies of Life will always multiply as Wealth is increased, and will be a constant Means of employing the diligent Poor, who get their Bread from the Hands of the Rich; whose Wealth is at the same time augmented by the Labour of the Poor; and these will multiply and increase, where-ever comfortable Bread is to be earned for Labour; and where Liberty of Conscience is established by publick Authority: So that Wealth and Numbers do, *by the sole Medium of Industry*, mutually subsist and increase each other.

THE inferior Class of Mankind, when profitably employed, are in every Country its chief Strength and Source of Wealth; but when they are indulged in Idleness, they are a Burden upon it, a dead Weight, and a Drawback on all its Affairs. People who are accustomed to Labour, and who live comfortably by their Labour, are contented, peaceable, chearful, tractable, and good Subjects; obedient to the Laws, tenacious of Liberty, incapable of Servitude; they not only subsist themselves by their Labour, but add to the Wealth of those who employ them. When the publick Peace is in Dan-

D

ger,

ger, or their common Safety threatened by foreign War, they chearfully risk their Lives in the Defence of their valuable Privileges of Liberty, and for securing to themselves and their Posterity the Fruits of their Labour, which, under a free Government, no Man can touch without Punishment. Publick Taxes laid on, and levied by a Rule certain, in Proportion to every one's Ability, they chearfully submit to, and are as good Soldiers as Subjects. They are contented with their Pay, submissive to Discipline, patient of Labour; and when the Publick has no more Use for their Service in War, they lay down their Arms chearfully, and return to their former Employments, whereby they know how to get their Bread, without any base or servile Dependence, and enjoy the Sweets of Peace with the greater Relish, that they have seen and felt the Miseries that attend War.

BUT idle Subjects are poor and indigent, and must be maintained at the Expence of others, either by a base and servile Dependence, or by Theft, Robbery, or Begging. They are discontented, turbulent, and mutinous, fond of publick Disorder, and ready to encrease it; always in Hopes of something from common and universal Calamity, and from every Change, as having themselves nothing to lose; insensible of Liberty, as
they

they enjoy none; Tools of Tyranny and Oppression, as they expect to be Sharers of the Booty; disobedient to Laws, as they live by no Rule: Their Minds are by Habit, base, servile, and dishonest, incapable of doing Good, prone to Mischief, and prompt Instruments of Cruelty and Oppression. Wherever they abound, the People must be put to a further Expence of maintaining a standing Army to over-awe them; for the slavish Principle of base Fear can only secure their Obedience. They may be forced into the Service of the Army; but are, for the most part, as bad Soldiers as Subjects. In their Lives they are irregular, in their Manners disorderly and dissolute, in their Tempers mutinous, ready to desert, as they have no Country to leave, that may properly be called their own; before the Face of an Enemy, ready to turn their Backs, as they have neither Honour, Liberty, or Property to lose by a disgraceful Flight; oppressive and insolent Masters, submissive, false, faithless, fawning and prostitute Servants; and when the War is over, they are unwilling to lay down their Arms, as knowing no other Way of living. No State can preserve its Liberty, where the People are allowed to be idle. Those who have no Property must live by base Dependence, can enjoy no Liberty themselves, nor have the least Sense of it; and neither can nor will

defend the Liberties of others; so that the first and chief Care of every Administration is, that all the Subjects be constantly employed in profitable Labour, and none be allowed to be idle. Men must not only be encouraged to do well, but must also be restrained by good Laws from doing Ill.

PERSONS of Fortune and Condition are under the strongest Ties to be diligent and industrious, that the Sense and Desire of Happiness can lay upon Mankind. Should these misemploy their Time in Luxury and Riot, trifling and expensive Pleasures and Diversions; or by a criminal Indolence, intirely trust the Management of their private Affairs to others; they will pay dear for such Conduct; they will soon be exposed to Duns and legal Diligence, and (if the least Sense of Virtue remains) perpetually haunted with the corroding Reflection of having put it out of their Power to do Justice to lawful Creditors; while Buffoons and Sharpers, the Companions of their Pleasures, and griping Usurers, to whom they must have Recourse to support their Extravagance, waste and devour their Substance. Such a heedless vicious Course of Life continued, must bring them under the utmost Distress; and at last the Extortioner will seize all they have, and reduce them from a State of Affluence, Ease, and Credit, to the miserable Condition of Poverty and Contempt, hated and despised

spised by good Men, and deserted by the bad and vicious, who have contributed to their Undoing.

WHEREAS the Man who governs his Passions, moderates his Appetites, and manages his private Affairs with Discretion, enjoys social Happiness in the greatest Perfection: All his Demands are regularly supplied, he is furnished with every Thing he wants at the easiest Rates, carested by every Dealer for his Business, esteemed and regarded by his Superiors and Equals, beloved by his Inferiors, and applauded by all Men. He is profitable to himself, his Family, and Friends, an useful and worthy Member of the Commonwealth, and with Justice may be entrusted with the most important Interests of his Country, as being under no Temptation to betray them.

It fares just so with the Merchant, Trader, Shopkeeper, Tradesman, or other Dealer, whose Business requires constant and regular Application. Should these indulge themselves in Riot and Sloth, expensive Pleasures and Diversions, and neglect their private Affairs; their Credit will soon be in Danger, and must be supported so long as they can, by Money raised on usurious Contracts, or unprofitable Sales, which must soon end in

Bankruptcy, succeeded by Misery in every Shape.

Idleness and Luxury are great Temptations to Roguery. As Diligence and Honesty generally go Hand in Hand, so is Idleness for the most part attended with Deceit and Dishonesty. He who cannot submit to a diligent and regular Application to Business, will nevertheless employ a few Hours with Pleasure, in laying a Plan to defraud his Neighbour, and support his Extravagance at the Expence of others. He who fails thro' his own Default, is often a fraudulent Bankrupt, and these never find the least Mercy from the Hands of lawful Creditors justly provoked; but like the hurtful Drones (amongst the industrious Bees) will be thrown out of Society, as unworthy to be Members of it.

WHEREAS the misfortunate Trader that fails, who from his Books and State of his Affairs, appears to have been careful and diligent, fair and honest in his Dealings, and has suffered thro' real Misfortunes, either by Loss at Sea, bad Debts, Fall of Markets, or any such other Cause which he could not avoid, will be treated with Humanity, pitied, cherished, and encouraged by his Creditors, who will contribute out of their own Substance, to enable him to begin the
World

World anew, that the Publick be not deprived of an useful Member.

THE working Tradesman and Artificer, Day Labourer, and all those whose daily Subsistence depends on their daily Labour, must work or starve. If these are two Days idle, they must want Bread the third, or make a bad Shift to get it. And here the Law, the watchful Eye, the rigorous and steady Hand of the Civil Magistrate, is much wanted, to prevent this greatest Strength, and chief Source of Wealth in every Nation, from being a Burden upon it.

ROBBERY, Theft, and Begging, are, as they regard Society, equally criminal; though, for want of good Police, not so in the Eye of the Law. The Thief lays his Plan, by secret Fraud or Violence, to spoil his Neighbour of his Goods; and watches a proper Opportunity to put it in Execution, either by attacking him on the Highway, clandestinely and furtively invading his House in the Night-time, or, as Occasion offers, to steal away his Goods in Daylight. His ill-gotten Purchase he wastes in Riot, with his Companions in Villany; and in Debauchery with lewd and wicked Women. And when he has once found out the Way to gratify his vicious and disorderly Appetites, without the Trouble of

painful Labour, no Apprehension of Danger can deter him from prosecuting his wicked Courses : Every smaller Punishment serves but to harden him in his Iniquity ; until the Gallows, the last and only Remedy for Theft, overtakes him.

THE begging Vagabond robs us in another Way, without Risque, and in a manner without Controul ; he sacrifices a Leg or an Arm ; and, by a gentle Caustick or Corrosive, gives it the Appearance of an incurable Sore ; ties it up, and counterfeits Lameness ; or frames a lamentable Story, of some uncommon and afflicting Distemper, or of great Loss and Misfortunes suffered, and an absolute Incapacity to work. Being thus freight with Falshood, and perfectly well skilled in the Art of Lying, he tunes his Voice to a pitiful Pitch, plants himself on some publick Street or Avenue, and raises Contribution from almost every Passenger, by a small Pittance forced from them thro' his Importunity. Like the Thief, he spends the Purchase of the Day in Riot, with his Doxy and Fellow Labourers in his unlawful Imployment. When he wearies of one Mistress, he turns her off without Ceremony, and takes up with the first he finds, that's more agreeable to his Humour or Fancy. The World, according to his Principle, is bound to maintain him, and he lives in it
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at large, without Labour, Trouble, Thought, or Care. These common Nuisances, and Pests of Society, hold for the most part a close Correspondence with the House-breakers; they serve them as Spies, to inform them where the most valuable Goods in every House lie, and of the easiest Way to get at them, and get a small Share of the Booty for their Pains.

THUS the People, who in every Country are its greatest Strength and Wealth, when profitably employed, are, when idle, its greatest Weakness, and Cause of Poverty: But were those two Vices of Theft and Begging, so pernicious to Society, effectually suppressed, every one that is able to work, must be profitably employed; and how happy and flourishing must every Nation be, that is in such a Case! The Few, who, through Age, Lameness, or any bodily Infirmary, are utterly unable to work, would prove an easy Burden to the working Many. Every one who is employed twelve Hours of twenty four, at the most ungainful Labour, earns more than will maintain one; and in some Kinds of Business, one frugal Person, diligently employed, will maintain and bring up a Family by his Work.

The personal Happiness of Individuals depends upon a diligent Application to Business,
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as well as the Happiness of a Nation, which comprehends the Whole. This is finely expressed by the Son of *Sirach*; *To labour diligently, (says he) and to be content, is a sweet Life!* A real Treasure this! and in every one's Power to have, but possessed by few; because through Inadvertency we run the Round of Vanity, from Day to Day, in the Pursuit of Happiness, by a Variety of false Means, that fail of their End, and bring forth Disappointment, a restless Anxiety, Anguish of Mind, and Vexation of Spirit, instead of Satisfaction. Whereas he, who by his Business can live free of any servile Dependence, and is contented with his Condition of Life, cannot fail of enjoying Peace and Quiet of Mind, whatever his Station be: But where Habits of Idleness have been contracted, hard and difficult is the Task to remove them.

THIS is too much our Case; Persons of all Ranks misemploy too much Time on expensive Pleasures, or fruitless and unprofitable Diversions. The Management of private Affairs is neglected; and, through heedless Inattention, and want of Oeconomy, many Persons of easy Fortunes are brought into Difficulties, and reduced to low Condition. It would be endless, as well as needless, to give Instances of this Sort; the Causes of our decaying Condition, and
present

present low State of our Affairs, are to every impartial Eye obvious; but few Men can willingly blame themselves; every one is ready to impute his Misfortunes to some common Calamity, or national Distress, brought on them by the Mal-administration or Blunders of Men in Power; or to some such remote Cause, foreign to the Truth. And thus amusing themselves, and satisfying (as they imagine) those they converse with, of their own Innocence, are hoodwinked from discerning the real Cause of their Distress; while the crafty and assiduous Usurer, who in Practice robs them, soothes their Pain with the Hopes of better Times, professes great Friendship, and talks of plausible Means of Relief, until he completes their Ruin.

NATIONAL Grievances, and publick Distress, occasioned by the Misgovernment of those entrusted with the Administration of publick Affairs, can only be cured by a national Representative; That, and that alone, can prevent the Growth of such Evils, and cure them, when they become palpable and notorious, by publick Examples of Severity; but the private Whisper, Murmur, and Complaint, or open Railing of one or many Individuals, though it may promote Sedition, and advance the Ends of Faction, yet can it answer no good Purpose,
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even where there may be just Cause of Complaint : But in reality, at least in every free State, where the Way and Method of regular Complaint (as with us) is ascertained by the Constitution, national Weakness, Poverty, and Distress are oftener owing to private Mismanagement and Indiscretion, to the private Vices, Indolence, and Luxury of Individuals, than to the Abuse of Power, or the ambitious Designs of Men in Power to grasp at more, or to extend Power in Possession. The best Patriotism, in private Life, is to be diligent and regular in our Application to Business, and frugal in the Management of our private Affairs : And so far every one acts the Part of a Patriot, as he promotes and advances his own Interest and Prosperity, he thereby contributes towards the Advancement of the Interest of the Publick, which consists of, and comprehends the Whole.

IF the Sense and Apprehension of sure coming Misery and Want, prevail not on Persons of Fortune to be frugal and industrious, no Law consistent with the Nature of Property can oblige them to be so : But those whose daily Bread depends on daily Labour, may be, and (in every rightly constituted and well governed State) are forced to work. This lower Class (if idle) live by Theft, Begging, or servile Dependence :

ence: Of this last Sort we have now few or no Instances, unless we reckon unnecessary Servants in this Number; and Theft and Begging might no doubt be effectually suppressed by good Laws, and Rules of Police rigorously executed. Here indeed the impartial Hand, the careful and constant Application of the Civil Magistrate of every Degree is required, as well as the watchful Eye of the Legislature itself to correct, alter, or amend such Laws, as from Experience are found to be imperfect, and answer not the End designed by them.

WE have many good Laws against Theft; but our Method now practised in punishing Thieves, neither cures the Evil, nor reforms the Delinquent. When one is tried and convicted of any Theft not capital, he is punished according to the Nature and Degree of the Offence, or Circumstance of the Offender, by publick Scourging, burning in the Face or Hand, by cropping his Ears, exposing on the Pillory, or by Banishment from the Jurisdiction where the Crime was tried. This last Way (said a Gentleman merrily) was a most unfair Practice, no better than if we should banish the Plague (were it in our Power so to do) from amongst ourselves to infest our Neighbours. These publick Punishments put Thieves under an absolute Necessity of following their
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vicious Courses so long as they live; they are thrown out of all honest Society; and although they enclined to reform their Manners, they cannot be entertained where they are known, and must shift from Place to Place, corrupting, debauching, and instructing, idle and ill-disposed young Persons, to assist them in the Prosecution of their unlawful Trade, which they disseminate in every Corner; and, after much Mischief done in many Places, the Flagrancy and Notoriety of their Crimes brings them at last to a shameful and violent Death, and puts an End to their bad Practices with their Lives; while the pernicious Trade is carrying on by other Hands of their Breeding, who have the same miserable Round to run, to the great Hurt and Loss of honest People, and to their own certain Ruin at last. The Truth of this is confirmed by the concurring Confessions of the Thieves of every Kind, at all Times and Places; when they regret their former wicked and wretched Way of Life, they blame their first publick Punishment, that hardened them in it, and cemented them to the Gang, from which they could never after depart, until they were pulled from it by the relentless Hand of Justice.

It is therefore most humbly submitted
to the Consideration of the Judges of every
Degree,

Degree, if some such Method as the following does not promise more Success, in suppressing this pernicious Crime, that tends so much to undermine Society, as it strikes at the very Root of Property. —

WHEN any Person, Male or Female, is convicted of Theft, they should be committed to a Workhouse, and punished in Proportion to their Offence, by being put to hard Labour, and fed on Bread and Water for a Time certain. Thereafter, if they are young and bred to no Business, the Men should be carefully instructed in the Art of weaving plain Linnen, and the Women taught to spin, and kept constantly at Work for a Course of Years, until they have acquired sufficient Skill and Dexterity in working, and are perfect Masters of their Trade; and from their Assiduity and Behaviour are supposed to have got the better of their former bad Habits of Vice, Idleness, and ill Company, and then enlarged, furnished with a Certificate from the Master of the Workhouse, importing that he or she, the Bearer, is a sufficient Tradesman, or good Spinner of such a Staple or Grist of Cloth, or Yarn, &c. and should also be recommended by one or more Justices of the Peace, or Magistrates, if within Burgh, to be employed as such by any Person who has Occasion for such Work.

THAT

THAT these Sentences should be entered upon Record, or carefully kept by the Clerk of Court where the Offences are tried, and an authentick Copy of them delivered in with the Person committed, to the Overseer of the Workhouse, to be carefully preserved by him, and entered in a Book to be kept for that Purpose. If any of these Persons shall, after their Enlargement, again follow their former bad Practices, and be committed for Theft, they should then be tried capitally as Persons of a depraved and vicious Disposition, not to be reclaimed; and their former Sentences of Conviction, and Means tried to recover them, sustained as Evidence against them. If some Method of this Kind may not be observed agreeable to the Laws for punishing Theft now in being, it is humbly submitted to those intrusted with the Police of the Country, if it deserves not the Consideration of the Legislature. Old Offenders are from Experience found to be incurable; and, as such, ought to be tried in the same Way for their Lives.

THE next thing to be considered is, to suppress the pernicious Vice of Begging, which in reality does more Harm, and diminishes the Commonwealth of the Country, vastly more than Thieving, though not so sensibly felt. It will be the more difficult to restrain this vile Practice, that the Country
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have been so long in Use to give Alms, and so many able-bodied and healthy Persons have been indulged in this base Way of Life, which, through Inattention, is too favourably thought of. We find, from the Experience of the Charity Workhouse in this City of *Edinburgh*, that those grown old in the Trade are absolutely incurable; they neither will nor can work, and chuse rather to lie a-bed, and be fed on Bread and Water, than to attempt to work, and be kept at a good Diet; such is their obstinate Perseverance in Vice and Sloth. These must be subsisted some how, till they die out: But the Source of Begging certainly may be stopped, and the present Age may yet reap the Fruits of so good a Work, were it but once set a going.

PEOPLE become Beggars chiefly from these two Causes: They are the Children of Beggars, destitute Orphans, or the Children of indigent Parents, who are turned out in their Infancy, to shift for themselves in this base Way of Life; wherein they contract such early Habits of Dishonesty, Sloth, and *Idleness the Mother of every Vice*, that if they are allowed to go on in it, till they arrive at Maturity, they can never afterwards be made fit for any useful Purpose in Life. The other Cause of Begging is, that labouring People and Servants, who,

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on Account of any lingering Disease, or other bodily Distress, are unable to work, and have no Friend to take care of them, must starve, or beg for Subsistence, while they continue in this Condition. If these once conquer the Shame of Begging, which bears hard upon every honest and virtuous Mind, they rarely ever thereafter apply themselves to Labour, even when they have recovered their Health and Strength.

To prevent young ones from becoming Beggars, there seems to be but one Way: To have a Charity Workhouse or Hospital for Orphans, at least one in every County; where all destitute Children, and the Children of indigent Parents, who are unable to entertain and educate them, may be taken in at four or five Years of Age, and there taught to read, and be put to easy Labour at first, such as picking of Wool or Cotton, teasing of Ockam, or winding of Pirns, and the Girls early taught to spin. That Farmers, Tradesmen, or any other Persons, who want Servants or Apprentices, may have their Choice of those Children, when they arrive at a proper Age; the Girls to be entertained by those who want them, with Bed, Board, and Cloathing, for a certain Number of Years, without other Wages, and thereafter for a certain Number of Years, at such a Rate as shall be agreed on betwixt

betwixt them and the Overseers of the Hospital, agreeable to Rules to be laid down for that Purpose. For the Encouragement of Farmers and Tradesmen, to breed these Boys to be Ploughmen, and Country Labourers, or working Artificers, they may be allowed a Trial of them for one Year; at the Expiration whereof they may return them to the Hospital, or enter into Contract of Indentures with the Overseers, to instruct and breed them to their Business; and the Boys be bound to serve them, without other Wages than Bed, Board, and Cloathing, for such a Number of Years as shall be agreed on, all to be established by the Rules for the Government of the Workhouse. All the Boys that remain in it at eleven or twelve Years of Age, should then be put on a Loom, and taught to weave plain Linnen, and be there kept constantly at Work, till they are twenty five or twenty six Years of Age; and the Girls kept constantly employed in Spinning, until they are taken out for Servants.

THE earlier one is put to any Handycraft Employment, he acquires the greater Dexterity and Slight in working, and performs his Labour with the greater Expedition and Ease to himself; and if he is kept constantly at Work, until he be twenty five Years of Age complete, he will then be past all

Hazard of acquiring any Habits of Idleness or Vice, and can labour assiduously so long as he lives with Satisfaction; whereby he will be enabled to live comfortably, without being a Burden or troublesome to any.

WHEN these young Tradesmen arrive at this Age, and are perfectly well skilled in their Business, they should be dismissed, if they please, and furnished from the Hospital with a Suit of new Cloaths, and a new Loom completely mounted, with all its proper Appurtenances, to work where and to whom they please, for their own Profit. The Women in like manner may be dismissed at the same Age, decently cloathed, and furnished with a good Wheel at the Hospital's Expence.

IN this Workhouse, or near to it, there ought to be an Apartment, called the House of Correction, where Thieves, or Persons committed for Crimes, are kept at hard and constant Labour. These ought never to be allowed to go abroad, and should be carefully kept from having the least Communication with the young People in the Hospital. The next, and apparently the greatest Difficulty is, to provide a Fund for defraying the Charges of fitting up these Hospitals and Houses of Correction, and for supporting their annual Expence. *Altho'*
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the Provisions and Money, that are now squandered away in Alms to idle Vagabonds, might be more than sufficient to answer this valuable Purpose, yet it is impracticable to have it so applied. It is therefore most humbly proposed to the Justices in each County ;

THAT they should divide themselves into small Committees, for the Inspection of the State of the Poors Funds, Numbers, and Circumstances of the Poor of each Parish ; and when these Committees make their Reports to the Quarter-Sessions, or to a general Meeting of the Justices, to be appointed for that Purpose, this Meeting may then appoint and allocate such a Proportion of the Poors Money of each Parish, as the State of their Funds, and Circumstances of their Poor, may severally admit of, to be paid in to the Collector of the Cess of the Shire, or his Deputy, for the Use of the Orphans Hospital, and House of Correction. They may likewise appoint a Collection to be made at every Church-door within the Shire, twice or oftener in the Year, for this Purpose, to which Persons of Condition would, no doubt, contribute largely, for a Work so very good, and really charitable.

T H E R E are in every Town, Houses to be purchased or hired at easy and reasonable

Rates; and these may be fitted up at a small Expence, to answer the Ends proposed. When Estimates of these Repairs, and of a certain Quantity of Materials for Work, of Looms, Wheels, and other Tools and Instruments, with necessary and proper Furniture, and Provisions for one Year, for a supposed Number of Persons, are laid before the Justices; it will then appear, if the two Funds proposed are sufficient to answer all the Expence. If they are not, the Deficiency may be made good by a voluntary Assessment of so much laid on each 100*l.* valued Rent; whereof the Tenants ought to pay a certain Proportion, as they will be then freed of all other Expence to the Poor, and relieved in a great measure from the Oppression of Thieves and forning Vagabonds.

WERE this Purpose once resolved upon, the Funds might be collected for one Year, and lent out on some Corporation Security, at a low Interest, to be repaid in small Moieties, from time to time, as they shall be demanded; and when the second Year's Fund falls due to be collected, the Work may be begun and carried on by Degrees. I cannot pretend to lay down Rules for the Government of such Houses; Experience alone can bring that to Perfection: But if a sufficient Weaver, honest and careful, is appointed

appointed Master of Work, and Governor of both Houses, under the Inspection of a certain Number of the Inhabitants, of best Respect and Condition in the Town where the Hospital, &c. is; these may prepare Rules of Oeconomy and Management, and lay them before the Justices of the Peace; which being by them approven, may be entered in the Regulation Book, to be observed as Laws for Government of the House, until they shall be altered by the same Authority, and other Rules substituted in their Room, which on Experience may be found to be more convenient.

ALL that will be wanting in the Beginning, is a Set of Books for keeping the Accounts not only of the Receipts and Payments of Money, but also of the Entries of the Children, their Progress in Work, and Discharges from the Hospital; an Account of the Purchase and Consumption of Provisions, Materials for Work, Looms, and other Tools, and Sales of the Goods manufactured, &c. These Books may be framed at *Edinburgh*, by several Persons perfectly well skilled in that Matter, who will be most ready to give their Assistance, without any Fee or Reward: That all Provisions should be bought, lodged in the proper Repository, and entered in the Book, at the Sight of at least three of the Overseers; the Mate-

rials for Work in like manner purchased, lodged in the Warehouses, and entered in the Book; and the Looms and other Tools also bought, lodged, and entered in the Inventory Book at their Sight. That one or more of the Overseers should visit the House twice or oftener in the Week, and report their Observations on the Master's Conduct, or Method of Management in the House, and of carrying on the Work to the rest. That the Accounts should be audited by three or more of the Overseers, once every Quarter, or oftener; who by comparing the Provisions on Hand, with the Quantities purchased, and those consumed, agreeable to a Bill of Fare for each Person in the House to be settled, and comparing the Materials for Work, either working up, or in Goods finished in the Warehouse, or sold, and the Tools employed, and these in the Warehouse, with the Inventory Books, and Book of Sales; all Imbezilements or Misapplications may be effectually prevented.

THE Expence of these Workhouses will, no doubt, prove a Burden sensibly felt by the Country for a few Years; but were it possible to make an Estimate of the irregular Expence we are now at, in giving of Alms and Pensions for the Maintenance of Orphans, this might probably overbalance the
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the other; but when we consider the great Advantage that must arise to the Country, in Consequence of these Workhouses; and that in a short Time, under good Management, they will be able to bear their own Charge; every Person of the least Reflexion will, no doubt, lend a helping Hand to have so valuable a Project put in Execution.

It may be supposed, for Example, that the Children taken in at four Years old, will be a Burden on the House until they are eight; from eight to fourteen, the Profits of their Work will be equal to the Expence of their Entertainment; from fourteen to twenty six, their Labour will exceed the Expence of their Entertainment, more than what they cost the first four Years; and the Cloaths and Loom, &c. they are to get out with them, and the Expence of Management, *i. e.* the Entertainment and Salary of the Master of Work; for the Oversight ought to be *gratis*. So it may be reasonably supposed, the Counties will be freed of all Expence in ten Years; and in twenty Years the Country will be stocked with good Tradesmen, better than any we have at present; for if they are well fed, as they ought to be, they will work with as much Vigour and Chearfulness as the *English*; and if they are kept constantly at Work, until they are
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twenty six Years of Age, they may equal the *Hollander* in Affiduity. These Houses will prove an excellent Nursery, and a constant Supply of good Weavers; and will, in some measure, serve to stock the Country with good Looms. The Publick will be relieved of the Burden of a great Number of Persons, who on this Event can live comfortably by their own Labour, free of any Dependence. Our Numbers of People will be likewise increased, by the entertaining at profitable Work many Persons, who, for Want of Business, now go abroad to seek their Bread elsewhere; and our National Wealth, with regard to the Balance of Trade with other Countries, will be thereby so much increased, as the Goods manufactured by them exceed in Value the Materials of which they are made.

IN the remote and thinly inhabited *Highlands* and *Islands*, the Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge have already done great Good, in reclaiming the poorer Sort from *Pagan* Darkneſs, and the more dangerous superstitious Rites, and Ecclesiastical and Foreign Bondage of the Church of *Rome*; but if the Managers of that Fund would, in Concert with the Gentlemen of those Countries, introduce some kind of Work amongst them, and teach the People to labour, they would soon become practical Christians,

Christians, as well as professed Protestants ; when they are taught how to provide Things honest, and to labour with their own Hands, without purloining, or being a Burden to any. One good Spinner, and a sufficient Weaver, at each of those Schools, with a few spare Looms, might be of great Use. One Hour of the Day they might be taught to read, and the rest of their Time employed in learning to work. No Writing or Cyphering ought to be taught there ; we are already overstocked with this Kind, while we want Hands for our hard and necessary Labour, and carrying on Manufacture, upon which chiefly the Wealth and Power of every Nation depends.

IF this greatest Source of Beggars was stopt, by entertaining at the publick Charge all the Children of indigent Parents, and teaching them to work for themselves and for the Publick, in some such Way as is here proposed, the other might be easily prevented ; namely, that of Servants and labouring People ; who, through any bodily Distress that disables them to work, and who have neither Substance nor Friend to take Care of them, are by Necessity constrained to beg, as before observed.

THE Infirmary lately erected in this City upon voluntary Contribution, has already
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done much Good of this Kind. Many Persons in the utmost bodily Distress and Want, are daily brought into it, and there entertained at Bed and proper Diet, and well attended, and served with every thing proper for their Case, until they are intirely recovered, if curable. Then they return to their former Way of Life, with vigorous and healthy Bodies, thankful and chearful Hearts. The Physicians and Surgeons of the City attend them by Turns most punctually; and, to their Honour be it spoken, without other Fee or Reward than this great one, the grateful Sense of doing so much Good. Were the Funds of this Infirmary so much increased, as to enable the Managers to enlarge the House, and be sufficient for the Entertainment of every proper Object that demands the Benefit of it, it would in a great measure serve the whole Country, and prevent all Begging from this Cause.

As we cannot, in the begging Way, distinguish the real from the pretended Objects of Charity, our Alms are often given as a Reward for past Extravagance, or prove an Encouragement for present Sloth and Idleness; but what is given for the Support of an Infirmary, is, beyond all Question, preferable to every other Charity whatever. This, as it regards the Donor, is really to feed the Hungry, to cloath the Naked, to
visit

visit the Sick, to bind up the Wounds and Sores, and cure the Diseases of the Afflicted; and to entertain those comfortably, who have not whereon to lay their Head. But as this Charity regards the Publick, it is a profitable Commerce; and therefore every Community, every Corporation, who have publick Stocks, ought to contribute towards it. All these are in Use to support their poor and decayed Members; and every 10 *l.* thus employed, may possibly save them 100 *l.* How many Persons, for Want of such Aid, have become Burdens on the Publick so long as they lived, who, by this Relief, are enabled to work for themselves and the Publick! So that a few Weeks good Entertainment is all the Expence we are at, instead of a Supply for Numbers of Years.

THE Charity next in Rank of Preference to this, is that of the Entertainment of destitute Children, and instructing them in the Knowledge of profitable Labour already spoke of; these two do obviously profit the Soul, as well as the Body, as they are so great an Encouragement to Virtue and Honesty, and a Restraint upon Vice: And next to these two is the last and only other Kind of Charity; *viz.* to support in Almshouses, or by Pensions in their own Houses, the old or infirm indigent Persons, who are past their Labour. These have a just Title to
Charity,

Charity, and every one is bound in Gratitude to contribute towards the Subsistence of them in their Turn; who, while they were able, did contribute towards the Support of others in Proportion to their Ability.

WERE all our Hands, that are able to work, thus constantly employed, the few Aged and Infirm would prove an easy and an insensible Burden: But great Care ought to be taken, that every Person should not only be employed in profitable Labour, but should also be fully taught and instructed to perform his Work with the utmost Skill, Slight, and Dexterity. We know but little of the practical Use and Application of Machinery used by other Nations, in many Branches of Business; as an ingenious Mechanick on his Return from *Holland* observed, that the *Hollanders* wrought more (as he expressed it) with one Head, than with two Pair of Hands. Good and proper Tools well and rightly adapted, and a perfect Knowledge in the Use of them, contribute greatly in the Dispatch of the Work, and towards the perfecting and finishing to the greatest Advantage for the Market, every manufactured Commodity. I shall therefore, in Order, observe our Defects as they have occurred to me, and submit to Persons more skilful in the several Branches of Business to be spoke of, the Methods I shall

shall only suggest, for our Improvement; to be amended, and rendered more perfect and complete, by better Hands.

THE first and chief Care of every Country ought to be the Improvement of their Grounds; the more and the better these are cultivated, the more they will yield; and where Provisions are in the greatest Plenty, there Manufacture is, or may be, carried on to the greatest Advantage; for all Wages must be proportioned to the Price of the Necessaries of Life. We are certainly far behind in the Knowledge, at least in the Practice, of Agriculture; we plow too much, not considering that the Expence of Tillage (when our Grounds are poor and run out) is very near as great, as when they are rich and in full Heart. One Acre of Ground, well manured and rightly dressed, will yield more than two in our present Way of Management: When we break up one Field for Tillage, if we left out another for Hay or Pasture in good Condition, the unfrugal Practice of Outfield and Infield would be at an End; every Part of a Farm would, in its Turn, produce equally plentiful Crops of Grain or Grass; but this cannot be done, so long as our Grounds are open. All the Beasts of the Country stray through the whole Grounds for five Months of the Year; as if every one possessed

possessed them in common, without Distinction of Property: By this Way we are deprived of the Benefit of Winter-haining; and even in the Summer we must be at the Expence of Herding, to save our Grass from being destroyed by our Neighbour's Beasts, and our Corn-fields from our own.

I CANNOT pretend here, to lay down Rules for the Improvement of Lands; there is already enough, and possibly too much, written on that Subject. Experience is the best Master in practical Husbandry; and every diligent Farmer of common Understanding will, from his own Observation, soon find out what Kind of Culture agrees best with his Grounds, whether Grain or Pasture, and which Kinds of these yield the greatest Profit. This may in some measure depend on his Vicinity to good Markets for the Sale of his Product, or to the Sea-coast for the Exportation of his Grain; but so long as our Farmers are kept low, by a precarious Possession upon short Leases, no Improvement can be expected at their Hands.

WHILE our old Aristocracy subsisted, all our Lands were held by Ward-tenures; the Power of the Country was possessed by the great Families, and the Property by their Vassals, who served them in the War; the Husbandry was managed by a Kind of Servants,

vants, who delivered so much Grain, Butter, Cheese, Wool, and a certain Number of Bullocks, Sheep, and Poultry, in Proportion to the Ground possessed by them, and the Stocking was put on it by their Masters; and these were Tenants at Will.

THE Case is now altered, and yet we have reaped small Benefit by the Alteration. The Tenants possess indeed their Farms upon Leases, and the Stocking of the Ground is their own; but should they attempt any considerable Improvement, their Leases would be out, before they can be fully repaid for their Expence and Labour; therefore they trade on in the old beaten Path, without ever forming any Project of enriching themselves by their Industry, while they justly imagine their Masters are to reap more Benefit by their Labour than themselves.

IN good Years the Tenants can deliver their Farms, and have a reasonable Profit to themselves; but in bad Seasons they cannot pay their Rents, without encroaching on their Stocking, and are thereby disabled from carrying on their Business to Purpose. In this Event the Landlord must lose, or his Tenant must be undone; and both these fall out but too often. How precarious is the Business of a Farmer in our
F present

present Way? And how unserviceable must our Yeomanry be to their Country? Unable to afford any Relief to the landed Interest, as they live in a low Way, and consume few or none of the Commodities that are subject to the Payment of Duties; and can give but small Assistance to the Trade or Manufacture of the Country: For though the eldest Son, by inheriting his Father's Stocking, may prosecute the same Trade; yet the younger Children, although bred up with Artificers, must nevertheless, for want of Stocks, work as Servants to others, at home or abroad.

THE Landlords are likewise put to a great Inconveniency by the present Way of their Payments; their Farms are delivered at one Term, and they have them to sell for Money payable at another Term, six or nine Months distant; and must also run the Risque of Loss, by the Failure of Brewers, Bakers, Cornfactors, and Exporters of Grain; which might be avoided, if, at an adequate Conversion, their Rents were paid in Money, and a small Proportion only paid in Kind. Their Hypothec secures them absolutely against Loss by the Tenant; and were the Farmers suitably encouraged, their Rents would be always punctually paid.

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WHEN our Product gives a Price, and the Rents are well paid, many Landlords are ready to estimate their Revenue by that Year's Produce, and live at a proportional Expence: But when there is no Demand for Grain, they likewise fall behind in their private Affairs; they hurt those they deal with, are a heavy Clog upon Trade, and, by their bad and backward Payments, are a great Hindrance to Business: So that the Situation of the unfrugal Landlord is fully as precarious as that of the discouraged Farmer; the one by his Situation cannot in the least contribute towards the Advancement of Trade; and the other, by his Mismanagement, is a real Hindrance to it.

THE Landlord must reap the Benefit of the Improvement of his Grounds; and Gentlemen of small Fortunes, or those who take Pleasure in Farming, will find their Account in improving so much of their Land, as may be done under their own Oversight and Inspection: But Gentlemen of large Properties cannot possibly improve their Lands themselves to Advantage. The Returns of the Expence of such an Undertaking are too distant and precarious to be attempted by any Man of Discretion: No Man will labour for another, as he does for himself; the Work wrought under the Master's Eye always succeeds the best: And indeed no

Commonwealth can flourish, but where every Individual finds his Account in his own Business ; and by promoting his own Interest, he so far advances that of the Publick. If the Day Labourer follow Directions, he does his Duty ; it is none of his Business, whether his Labour is to profit the Employer, or no: The hired Servant reaps no Gain by his own Industry, nor suffers any Loss by his Negligence, other than a Rebuke from his Master, and perhaps a bad Conscience ; which, from Experience, we find to be too feeble a Tie to bind Men to their Duty : But the diligent Farmer is always over the Head of his Affairs ; he must take Care that every one who eats his Bread, shall labour for it to the best Advantage ; because his Profit and Loss depends upon his own Conduct.

IF then our Country cannot be improv'd by the Proprietors without Loss, nor by the Tenants without a proper Encouragement ; that Method, by which the Lands of *England* were improv'd, seems to be the best, and indeed the only Way to improve ours ; the rather, that from an Experiment some Years ago made, we are now certain of its Success* ; *that is*, that all the Farms of the

* The old Estate of *Cockburn* of *Ormistoun* in *East-Lothian*, set to the Tenants for three Lives, is now all inclosed, and most of the Fences sufficient ; and the Farmers are become wealthy, far beyond the common Condition of Persons of their Rank.

Low Countries may be lett out to the Tenants at the present Rents, upon Leases for three Lives; upon the Fall of the first, any of the Farmers Sons, or other Relation to whom he shall bequeath his whole Stocking on the Ground, and whom by a Writing under his Hand he shall appoint, may succeed him as the second, and he to be succeeded by a third in the same Way. That the Farmer shall be obliged to inclose within the first three or five Years, so much of the Farm as shall be agreed on, and so much more of it the second, and so on, until the Improvements of the whole Grounds to be improv'd by inclosing are finished. The Farmer may be safely left at Liberty to dress the Grounds as he has a mind; he is now sure of reaping the Fruits of his own Labour, and will cultivate his Grounds in the best Manner he knows; and the more Profit he draws during his Possession, the greater Benefit arises to the Master at the Issue of the Lease. The Farmer will soon find the Sweets of Labour, and will carry on his Improvements with the utmost Expedition; for the sooner these are finished, the more Benefit accrues to his Family.

WEALTH and every temporal Blessing is the Fruit of Industry, and Industry is the Effect of Encouragement, *that is*, Liberty, and an absolute Security of Property to its

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Acquirer;

Acquirer; here the Land and Tenant are both enriched, by the Industry of the one thus encouraged by the other; for the Master, even during the Currency of the Lease, has his former Rent sure and well paid, without the least Risk or Trouble, instead of a Rent bad and precarious; and when it determines, his Estate returns to his Family improven, perhaps, double in its Value. The Farmer in the mean time may reasonably be supposed to be well paid for his Labour; he must know perfectly what his Farm is then worth, and is well able to pay an advanced Rent.

THE Landlord may then dispose of his Farm as he pleases; but this Method of letting of Grounds by Leases upon Lives, even when they are fully improven, is from Experience found to be the best both for Master and Tenant. The Rent is somewhat under the yearly Value, in Consideration of a Fine or *Grassum* paid at the Entry; and if the Lease is for more Lives than one, a Fine in Proportion to the yearly Rent is payable on the Fall of each Life. By this the Farmer is enabled to stand the Shock of bad Years, to pay his Farm punctually on all Events, and to make such Provisions for his Family, that they may never become a Burden upon the Publick.

THE Landlord, on the other Hand, is sure of having his Land always well cultivated, and in good Condition; for when a Lease for a Term of Years draws towards the Issue, the Tenant will, by saving the Expence of Manure, and taking what they call two or three scourging Crops, destroy the Ground, that he may have a new Lease upon the easier Terms, or render the Farm of less Value to any other who shall succeed him. But as no Man knows the Day of his Death, the Lessee for Life is always managing his Farm to the best Advantage, as he expects to reap the Benefit both of his Labour and Expence. The Landlord further knows his yearly Income to a Shilling, and to a Day when he is to receive it; and if he then fall behind in his private Affairs, he is greatly to blame. The Fines that come to him on the Fall of Lives, and Renewal of Leases, happen at Periods so very uncertain, that they can never be reckoned as any Part of his Expence; these ought to be considered as so much Increase of his Fortune, and disposed of in Provisions to younger Children, or any such valuable Purpose. So that a Country Gentleman, fond of preserving a Family, may live up to his Estate, provide for younger Children, and transmit it nevertheless to his eldest Son undiminished, and without Burden.

THE Advantages arising to the Publick from an Improvement of the Country of this Kind, are great, and more in Number than can well be reckoned, or justly foreseen. The landed Gentlemen have their Estates greatly increased by the Industry of their Tenants, encouraged without any present Loss or Diminution of Rent; as they have more Wealth, they are better able to give large Fortunes to younger Children, to enable them to prosecute Trade and Merchandize to a greater Extent, and thereby give Bread to many. The Farmers, on the other Hand, who are now of the lowest Class of the People, will soon become wealthy, and a Means of adding greatly to the Wealth, Numbers and Power of the Country; they will be capable to educate their younger Children to be Artificers and Manufacturers, and able to give them Stocks to follow their Business as Masters, while the Children of labouring Men, Servants, working Artificers, and Parish Children, being bred to Handy-craft Employments, will serve them and others in the Drudgery and hard Labour. The Farmers will likewise live better, and they and the Tradesmen, as their Properties increase, will, by their Consumption of Commodities that pay Duties, prove a great Relief to the Gentlemen of fixt Properties, *i. e.* the landed Interest, which must bear every publick Burden, where no other Sub-
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ject appears to lay it upon. Here one cannot but take Notice of our Farmers unfrugal Way, of living so much upon Grain, which, perhaps, as they are now situated, they cannot so conveniently alter: But were their Grounds once inclosed, if they lived more upon Flesh and Roots, Greens and Garden Stuff, they would live more comfortably, and, in the Opinion of many, much cheaper. If in the same Way they fed their Servants better, they would work with so much more Vigour, that five at the same Wages may be supposed at least to work as much as six; their working Cattle should also be better fed and of a larger Size, and a smaller Number would do their Business; they should be well littered, and always lie dry, which makes the Beasts strong and healthy; and this tends also to increase the Quantity of their Manure, by throwing so much more Litter on the Dunghil. But these, and many other Articles of Management, of much greater Importance, will occur to every judicious Farmer, from his own Observation, in the Course of his Business. One old Practice in the Way of managing Estates proves a great Loss to the Landlord, and wants much to be reformed; and that is,

IN old Lordships and great Baronies, most of the Farmers live in what is called
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the Barony-Town, the Arable Land or Grounds for Tillage are divided by Run-rig equally amongst them, and the outlying Grounds are possessed by them all in common for Pasture and casting of Feal (a most pernicious Practice this.) When this Disposition of Estates was made, the Manner of the Times made it necessary, the Crown wanted either Power or Inclination to keep the publick Peace, and to preserve the Persons and Properties of the Subjects from the Violence and Outrage of one another; an Injury done to one Family was repaired by the Return of a like Act of Violence upon the Aggressor; thus two Families once at Variance, continued in Feud and Enmity, and a State of War. The Lord of the Barony lived in a Castle, or Tower of War; and unless he was surpris'd abroad in the Day-time, his Person was safe, and might sleep sound; but their Lands were liable to the constant Plunder and Depredations of one another. When an Inroad happened, every one upon the Ground was bound by his Interest, as well as Duty, to turn out with his Arms to rescue the Prey; for as their Corns and Cattle were all (by this Disposition) mixt, every one probably had a Share in it. But these unhappy Days are now long since past, the Peace of the Country, and the Properties of its Inhabitants are secured by Law, which from Experience we have long ago

ago found to be a sufficient Fence for them. If one is in any respect injured by his Neighbour, the Law will repair him; he may now lay him down in Safety and absolute Security, without other Castle or Watch than the Laws of his Country. And the Properties, even of the meanest Subject, are secured from Violence, without the Force of Arms, either of himself or his Neighbours; the Effect should therefore cease with the Cause.

THESE Baronies may be now much improved by dividing them into so many Farms, each of a proper Extent, and the Houses built as near in the Middle of the Grounds, as the lying of them, and the Conveniency of Water will admit of, that the remotest Fields all round may be equally near the Housing, for the Conveniency of carrying out Dung, and bringing home the Product. The Houses in the Barony-Town, with eight or ten Acres of Ground to each, ought to be let out in Feu or Fee-Farm for ever, to Manufacturers or Tradesmen for Country Work*; these Grounds will be sufficient for the Maintenance of a Horse to carry their Commodities to Market, for a Cow or two to serve them with Milk and

* The Barony-Town of *Ormiston*, with about fourscore Acres of Ground that lie round it, all inclosed, is feued out in this Manner.

Butter,

Butter, and for breeding of tame Fowl; and, by having one Plough amongst Six, they may plow as much as will serve them in Winter-Fodder, and Barley for Malt-Drink.

THESE Manufacturers, when their Business happens to increase, might dispose of their Feus, and settle in the great Towns, where their Trade might be carried on to better Account, were they not restrained by a most foolish Conceit of Privilege (entirely misunderstood) of a Monopoly in the Companies of Tradesmen, called Incorporations, which these many Ages has served no other Purpose than to render these Tradesmen themselves idle, poor and miserable; and to keep the Towns to which they belong, from increasing either in Wealth or Inhabitants.

EVERY Burgh, every City, every State, at least every free State, that is governed by Laws, and has its Police regulated by right Reason, and the just and true Rules and Maxims of its political Interest, will take all imaginable Care to encourage Strangers to settle amongst them, especially Traders, Artificers and Tradesmen, who are the chief Wealth and Strength of every Country. All Guilds, Exemptions, seclusive Privileges, and Monopolies in any particular Trade, Business or Profession, and
every

every other Bar that proves a Hindrance, or the least Discouragement to such to live amongst them, is no sooner discovered, than by publick Authority it is removed. The wisest Statesmen*, who have founded their Plans of Government upon Experience, are of Opinion, that Residence alone, and Subjection to the Laws, Customs, and common Burdens with the other Subjects, is all that ought to be required of any Foreigner to entitle him to all the Privileges of a free Denizen. The Industrious will always go where Industry is most encouraged, and where he may carry on his Business with the greatest Freedom, without any Restraint or Incumbrance; but where a heavy Sum must be paid in the Threshold for Freedom to work, and the Liberty of being a profitable Member to the Community, there Industry cannot enter, nor Wealth reside.

THIS well deserves the Consideration of the Royal Boroughs, who groan under a heavy Burden of paying a sixth Part of all the Land-Tax for the seclusive Privilege of Trade; and yet by the indiscreet Exercise of these Monopolies and seclusive Privileges of their Tradesmen, Trading is forced from amongst them. How many Towns, once wealthy and flourishing, are by this become

* The Great *John de Wit*.

mere Deserts, as if they groaned under the Oppression of Tyranny, like those ancient ruinous Cities under the Dominion of the *Turk*, and See of *Rome*? So that this heavy Burden lies now upon a few, and these not well able to bear it. They know, from Experience, the unfree Trade, as it is, and ever will be managed, can yield them but small Relief; but if the Trade and the Freedom of handycraft Employments, was laid open, as the *African* Trade was, the Royal Boroughs would reap as great Benefit by the one, as the Nation in general gains by the other. Many of those unfree Traders, who are now dispersed through the Country, would come and reside in Burghs, where they could carry on their Business to greater Advantage; the best Tradesmen, the most ingenious Artificers, Mechanicks, and Manufacturers would, in like manner, settle in the great Towns; and the small Burghs of Barony and Regality, where they now live, would, in this Event, become Nurseries for Persons of narrow Fortunes, and those who begin to trade, to stock the Royal Boroughs with wealthy Inhabitants. Their Proportion of the Land-Tax would then prove an easy Burden to them; when, as we are of one Country, under the Dominion of one Prince, and governed by the same Laws, every Person should be intitled to the same Privileges, Freedoms and Immunities,

munities, upon this sole Condition, Residence, and Subjection to the Rules, Customs, Services, and Duties of the Burgh, in common with the other Inhabitants. —

How unlike is it to Freedom and Liberty, that a 'Trader in a Royal Burgh cannot employ a Tradesman in the Country, who, by his superior Industry and Diligence, can work cheaper; and that the Country Manufacturer cannot bring in his Goods for Sale, but on a certain Day, and at a certain Hour, as if Commodities for Exportation ought to be subjected to the same Rules of Sale with Market-Provisions? How much is the Trade within Burghs discouraged by this Practice? And who are the Gainers by this great Loss to the Country? Not even the Tradesman who is the Cause of it; he can hinder others to thrive, but does not thereby thrive himself; the Merchant will not buy his Goods for all his Privilege, unless he can sell as cheap as he that has none. He has indeed the Opportunity of taking Advantage of Peoples Necessities, and is in Use (to the Shame of the Rulers of all Royalties be it spoken) of taxing his Neighbours, by making them pay 3 or 4 *Cent.* for a dead Coffin more than it is worth, or more, according to the Circumstances and Quality of the Person; and so on every other such Occasion, where one can be served no other Way;

Way ; and are they enriched by these great Profits? On the contrary, as this Practice encourages Idleness, they are wretchedly poor and miserable ; and yet, for the Sake of this mighty Privilege, is the Trade of the Country discouraged, and its Manufactures kept low, as they are thereby, in some Measure, banished from Royal Burghs, where they might be carried on to the greatest Advantage.

THE Sticklers for these Privileges say, That besides those who enjoy them by Right of Inheritance, others may acquire them by Service ; but then, besides seven Years Service, they must also pay an Apprentice-Fee (at least to some Trades) which might be a sufficient Stock for them to carry on Business. Neither is this well understood, when Boys are put to Apprenticeships, their Capacities, particular Genius, and Inclinations are not sufficiently considered ; and hence it is that some Persons, after they have served their Time to one Trade, do afterwards take up with, and practise another, and to good Purpose too ; but, no doubt, much to his Loss, as the Painters say, *He that taught himself, had a Fool to his Master*, although that Profession requires more natural Genius and Inclination than any other. In this Case a Man loses not only his Time and his Money, but also, as our Monopolies are exercised

exercised, the Privilege he has served and paid so dear for. He has a Right to set up and follow the Trade he served to, which from Experience he finds himself unfit for, and dislikes; but can set up no other at which he might succeed. For Example, a Freeman Silversmith cannot take up the Trade of a Pewterer, Brasier, or Coppersmith. Since our Eyes are so much blinded by the opaque Shadow of an imaginary Privilege, that we cannot see our real Interest, it were to be wished we would at least follow the wise and beneficial Example of the City of *London*, to which, in a great Measure, it owes its present Wealth and Numbers, notwithstanding the great Increase of Buildings in the Liberties of *Westminster*.

THE Companies of *London*, with us called Corporations, had Grants of Monopolies, &c. from the Common Council, as ours had from our Town Councils, and both for the same Cause, to encourage Art and Industry. These were granted when Trade was in its Infancy, and little understood; but as Business increased, Experience soon discovered, that an indiscreet Exercise of them would produce an Effect directly contrary to what was intended; Idleness and Ignorance, in Place of Art and Industry. The Common Council, to prevent the hurtful Consequences of these seclusive Privileges, in so far as they

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affected the real Interest of the City, by discouraging of foreign Artificers, or other skilful and industrious Tradesmen, from setting up, and following their Business in it, laid them open by an Act of Communication. By this Act no Right or Privilege was taken from them; they had the same Right to vote in every Election as before, and to be chosen to any Office of Trust or Profit within the City; only a Person, who had the Freedom of any one Company, was at Liberty to follow the Business and Profession of any other he pleased. For an Instance, if such an Act was past in every Royal Burgh in *Scotland*, suppose an ingenious and skilful Joyner applies to that Corporation for his Freedom, and they refuse to admit him, unless he pay them an extravagant Sum of Money; or perhaps refuse him on any Terms, which has often been the Case; he then applies to the Corporation of Bonnet-makers, or any other Corporation decayed and worn out, such as the Bowers, Fletchers, and several others in *London* are, as to their Business, but are as numerous of Members as any other. There, it may reasonably be supposed, he may purchase his Freedom for a Trifle, for that Trifle is so much gained to them; and then he sets up, and follows his Business as a Joyner; but he has only Right to vote with the Bonnet-makers. The Publick can suffer little by his Admission

mission without a Sey; if he does not work well and cheap, he will find no Business: But the Truth is, many are admitted Freemen by the Corporations, who are most insufficient; and hence it is, we have so many bad Tradesmen, and better Workmen in many Places of the Country, than are to be found in some Boroughs.

By such an Act Business would not be so much disincumbred and free, as the common Interest of the Country requires it should; nevertheless the Freedom of Corporations in Royalties might thereby be purchased at so reasonable Rates, that an ingenious and diligent Tradesman, of a Stock proper to carry on Business within Burgh, would have no Reason to grudge it. One Thing is indeed pretty astonishing in the Abuse of these exclusive Privileges; a Stranger may, in every Royalty, purchase, at a very easy Rate, and that a fixed one too, the Right of the Guildry, from whom these Corporations derive theirs; but the Freedom of a Corporation is to be purchased by no fixed Rule; that intirely depends upon the Caprice or particular Views of the Majority, to settle the Terms, and often they will agree to it on no Terms. This Inconsistency has an odd Appearance, an arbitrary Constitution, at least so in Practice, in this Particular of the greatest Importance; that derives all its Power from,

and continues to be dependent, and a Part of a Society limited and governed by Laws: And all this, as before observed, tends only to encourage Idleness and Ignorance, to keep those privileged Tradesmen poor themselves, and, by discouraging Industry, and the Improvement of Art in others, to hinder the Growth and Thriving of the whole Community, of which they are Members. Will no Experience teach Men to be wise, and to pursue their real Interest, when the Way to it is so plain and obvious; and leave off to contend for the Shadow of a Privilege, while the Diligent and Industrious enjoy the Substance? But to return:

ALL the Farms in the low Countries may, beyond all Question, be greatly improved by Inclosing; and we know, from certain Experience, that these Improvements may be made by the Farmers, upon the Encouragement of Leases upon Lives. Even the high and mountainous Grounds, fit only for Sheep Walk, or the Pasture of black Cattle, that cannot be made better by Inclosing, may nevertheless be somewhat advanced in their Value. Their Grass in their Glens and Bottoms is now saved in the Summer-time for Pasture to their Beasts in the Winter; but if all these low Grounds were drained and inclosed, and turned to Hay Grounds, the Foggage would feed very near as many

as the dead and withered Grass does now; and then they have their Hay into the Bargain, to feed their Beasts, when the Grounds are covered with Snow.

EVERY Advance of the Commonwealth of a Country is a publick Benefit, for the Good of the whole People in general; but in particular, those who are the Cause of it, reap the Profits directly. So much as the Product of our Country is increased by the Improvement of Land, so much is the Publick profited in many Respects; but the whole Value of this Increase goes into the Pockets of the Proprietors of the Grounds in the first Instance. Here the Tenant is to be considered as well as the Master; for a Lease for Life has a kind of Property in the Ground, at least so far as to engage him to manage it to the best Advantage, as if it were really his own; and he well deserves a Share of the Profits, which arise chiefly from his own Industry.

*That Country teems with Wealth, where Property
Assures it to the Swain,
Pleas'd and unwear'd in his certain Toil.*

THOMSON'S *Seasons*.



THE
Interest of SCOTLAND
CONSIDERED, &c.

PART II.

*Life, a Waste of Time ! till Industry approach'd,
And rous'd Man from his miserable Sloth ;
His Faculties unfolded, pointed out,
Where lavish Nature the directing Hand
Of Art demanded, &c.*

THOMSON'S *Seasons*.



INDUSTRY is the chief Source
of national Wealth and Power :
The Strength, Riches, and Re-
putation, or the Poverty and
Weakness of every Country, are
in Proportion to the Industry of the Inhabi-
tants, and their Wisdom and Discretion in the
Manage-

Management of their publick Affairs. Several Countries have many and great natural Advantages over others, both in the Quantity and Quality of their Product; but private Industry and publick OEconomy can only give the Preference and Superiority. Even those Standard *Mediums* of Trade and Barter, Gold and Silver, equally valued by every civilized Nation, enrich not the Masters and Proprietors of those Countries that produce them; they are only Labourers for other Countries, and the most industrious do always possess them in the greatest Plenty.

THE Product of every Part of the habitable Globe may be sufficient to maintain a certain Number of Inhabitants; but nothing less can satisfy the Wants of Mankind, than the Product and Manufacture of the whole World; which, by the Means of Trade and Commerce, is laid open, and possessed in common by every Part of it. The Philosopher may say, that half of those Wants are unreal and imaginary; and, no doubt, those who are so, not in Speculation only, but also in Practice, can vouch the Truth of it from Experience; but how few and inconsiderable are these of the numerous Herd of Mankind? When one has by his Industry abundantly supplied himself with the indispensable Necessaries of Life, *Food, Raiment,*

and Lodging, he rests not there, but goes on to Luxury, the Destroyer of Wealth, to create and invent new Wants, which are so far real, as they prompt and excite us to Industry, and without it Life would be comfortless, and a heavy Burden.

WHAT does every Man propose by his Toil, Labour, and Assiduity in Business? But to acquire Wealth, and to have it in his Power to gratify every Appetite, every Desire; although those who are most eager in the Pursuit of Riches rarely or never do so, but go on following the same endless Chace so long as they live. What do Riches avail the Owner, if he cannot by them purchase every Thing that is rare, and valued by Mankind? Do not the Wealthy share with Princes the Possession of every Commodity of the Universe they incline to have, from the slightest Stuffs of *Persia*, to the Jewels and precious Stones of *India*?

WERE it possible to confine Luxury to the Rich, it would be a great national Good, and a publick Benefit to Mankind; did Men of great Estates only outrun in their Expence, it would contribute greatly to preserve the Balance of Property, by diminishing the Wealth of those who have too much; for the more equal the Distribution of Property is, the better for every Country.

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Do not magnificent and stately Buildings, costly Furniture and Apparel, Confectionaries, Cookeries, Variety of Meats, Fruits and other Delicacies for Diet, all contribute to communicate so much of the Wealth of the Rich, to the ingenious Artift, and industrious Manufacturer? And are not the Porcelain of *China* and *Japan*, and the curious Workmanship brought from thence, the Coffee of *Turkey*, Spices of *Arabia*, the luscious Sugar of the *American* Islands, high-priced Wines, and even the insipid Tea of *China*, now universally used? All so many Subjects of Commerce, that serve to support Numbers of Merchants, and greater Numbers of retailing Shopkeepers, who deal in these Commodities. These, and many more, needless to enumerate, may be in themselves unnecessary, and easily dispensed with; but Custom and Habit, which forms our Taste in every Thing, has made them so far necessary, that every one uses them in Proportion to his Ability, Station, or Condition of Life, and Manner of Living. No Man will part with his Property for nothing; and whatever he so far esteems as to part with his Property for it, that Thing becomes so far useful, and the Price paid for it ascertains its real Value. Glass Beads and Diamonds may be in themselves equally useless and unnecessary; but their real Values
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are severally settled by the Opinions of Mankind.

As Poverty treads close upon the Heels of Luxury, Property would be in a constant Rotation, from the Hands of the Profuse and Expensive, to the Possession of the Frugal and Industrious: And as we find from Experience, that the Manners of Men change often with their Condition, immoderate Wealth would not remain long with the same Person or Family. But where Luxury is in Esteem, Vanity, the prevailing Passion of all Mankind, will diffuse it amongst Persons of all Ranks and Conditions. Men of ordinary Fortunes will live above their Estates, not from Taste or Choice, but out of Vanity to be as well esteemed as their Superiors.

PERSONS liable to this egregious Folly mistake their Measures exceedingly, and fail of their End: Their Vanity serves only to make them the Objects of Scorn and Derision, and they reap Contempt and Envy in Place of Esteem; and if they fail, they fall unpitied. But it is an Error of Complexion, a natural Weakness, an Infirmary more than a Fault, and cannot be cured, so long as Poverty and Parsimony are despised, and Men valued on account of
their

their Wealth and Expence. It is, nevertheless, a most pernicious Evil: It throws out of the Circle of Business many Men of middling Condition, who are the most useful and beneficial to Society; and destroys the *Equilibrium* of Property, when their Substance is ingrossed by Men of overgrown Fortunes.

LUXURY may be prevented by sumptuary Laws, and Restraints upon Expence; but these are directly opposite to the Interest of a trading Country, as they discourage Industry, hinder the Progress of Manufacture, stop the Increase of Trade, and the Advancement both of private and publick Wealth: The sole Remedy depends upon the natural Sagacity and Discretion of Individuals, to regulate their Expence by their Profits and Income; to confine themselves and their Way of Living to that Sphere of Life in which Providence has placed them; to be frugal and industrious, and contented with their Lot and Condition in the World.

THE Wants of Mankind are as various as numerous; nor can the most Ingenious, by his own Skill and Industry, supply himself with one half of the Conveniencies required to render Life tolerably comfortable. We are by Nature defenceless and weak,
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as well as needy, exposed an easy Prey to every savage Animal ; but when armed by Art and Industry, we are an Over-match for the fiercest : And when we are by Laws united in Society, we become strong, and secure against the Craft and Violence of one another ; and, by our mutual Assistance, are abundantly supplied with every thing proper to make Life pleasant and agreeable. But every one, who is intitled to this great Blessing of Society, must labour for it, and be capable to bear his Share of the Burden. Our Industry must precede our Happiness ; for, before we can enjoy the Product, or Manufacture of any other Country, we must have something of our own to spare, that is valued by them ; which we must give them in Exchange for the Excesse of their own.

THE Stock for foreign Trade in every Country is its Product and Manufacture ; the first cannot be much increased, but no Bounds can be set to the latter. The common Product of every Country ought to be employed in the Encouragement of Manufacture ; that is, our Land should be improved to the utmost, not to export its additional Product as a Subject for foreign Trade, but that we may have Provisions in Plenty, to maintain as many Hands as may be employed in Manufacture. When a Country

try abounds with any particular Product, such as Gold, Silver, Lead, Tin, Copper, Iron, or the like; these, after serving the Home-consumption, may be exported, and are to be considered, with our other Manufactures, as so much Stock for foreign Trade. If we design then to encourage foreign Trade, we must do it by the Encouragement of Home-manufacture.

FOREIGN Trade may be a Loss to a Nation; for although the Merchant be a Gainer by his Trade, the Publick may suffer by it; but so much as the Manufacturer earns by his Business, so much is also gained to the Nation. If his Manufacture is for Home-consumption, so much is saved to the Country, as we have no Occasion to import that Commodity; if it is for Exportation, it is so much Stock in foreign Trade, for the Purchase of foreign Commodities.

ON the other hand, the Business of the Merchant is to purchase Goods at one Market, to be sold at an higher Price in another; and thence his Profit arises. We shall suppose then, that a Merchant exports 200 Bolls of Barley, which cost him 100*l*. and sells them at a foreign Market at 10 *per Cent.* clear Profit; and there purchases another Cargo, which he sells at home at 10 *per Cent.* neat Profit also. Here the Merchant

Merchant gains 20 *per Cent.* by his Voyage ; but if his Cargo inward is all used or consumed at home, the Country loses so much by it. He can then purchase with the Returns of his 200 Bolls of Barley (if the Markets are the same) 240 Bolls ; and if he exports them again in the same Trade, he gains 20 *per Cent.* by every such Adventure, and the Country loses so much by it, if his inward Cargo is all for Home-consumption. It fares just so in trading Voyages, where the Balances in Trade are against us. When the Merchant exports a Cargo of the Product or Manufacture of his Country, suppose to the Value of 1000 *l.* and sells it to Advantage at a foreign Port, and there loads another Cargo, which is also sold with Profit at a second Market, and so on from Port to Port, until his Stock first exported is improved two or three *Cents*, and then returns a Cargo, which he sells at home for 3000 *l.* if this Cargo inward is all for Home-consumption, the Country loses by this Trade, although two *Cents* are gained by Navigation.

To make this plain to every Capacity : Suppose the Merchant's first Cargo outwards consisted of Wheat, for which he paid 30 Shillings the Quarter, and his Returns, on the End of his trading Voyage, were as many Pieces of Silk Stuffs, as he carried out
Quarters

Quarters of Wheat. The Farmer pays the Merchant 4 *l.* 10 *s.* for a Piece of Silk imported, in Exchange for one Quarter of Wheat, for which he received only 1 *l.* 10 *s.* But if this Cargo inward consist of Materials for Manufacture, that are to be wrought up in Goods at home, for foreign Exportation, then the Country would be great Gainers by the Trade. For Example: Suppose it consisted of Bales of Cotton, which are sold on Importation for 3000 *l.* the Goods made of the Cotton, when finished, may be, at least, supposed to be worth 9000 *l.* In this Event the Country not only gains 6000 *l.* by their Manufacture, but also the Merchant's Profits of 2000 *l.* gained by his Trade, are likewise gained to the Country in the Balance of Trade; because you draw, for the manufactured Goods, at a foreign Market, the whole 9000 *l.*

If a Merchant export a Cargo of Product and Manufacture, to the Value of 1000 *l.* and his Returns consist of Commodities for Home-consumption, to the Value of 800 *l.* and the Balance is returned in Money, or Bills of Exchange, (which is the same thing) so much is the Country a Gainer by that Trade. Or, if the Merchant shall send out his Ships in Balast only, or with a Cargo of low-priced Product, such as Coals or Salt, and takes in a Loading at a foreign Port upon Freight,

Freight, and so continues running upon Freight, until she can purchase a Cargo with her Freights, to the Value of 4 or 500 *l.* although this Cargo is for Home-consumption, the Country is so much a Gainer in the Balance of Trade, as it is so much gained by Navigation ; and has this further Advantage, that so many of their most valuable Hands, Sailors, earn their Bread by it.

THOSE Branches of Business, wherein the Publick gains, as well as the private Adventurer, ought, no doubt, chiefly to be followed ; but every Dealer will certainly prosecute that Trade, in which he finds his Account the most. Neither ought a Trade to be discontinued, because the Country suffers by it ; we may be Losers by our Dealings with one Country, and be greater Gainers by our Trade to another. It is sufficient, if we are Gainers by Trade upon the main ; for every Trade equally employs the Merchant, and the Dealer in the Commodity, though every Business is not equally beneficial, nor the same Profits to be got by the same Trade at all Times. Great and various are the Risks of Merchants ; and, as it fares with the Merchant, so must it happen to a Country nationally : He loses by one Voyage, but he gains by another ; sometimes he is a Loser by Trade
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on the main, at other Times a much greater Gainer ; as the Saying is, *Trade may be sick through various Accidents and Misfortunes* : But Industry is its Life and Soul ; and so long as Industry subsists, Trade cannot die.

MANY are the Mysteries of Trade. A Nation may be Losers by their Trade to one particular Country, and yet, by the Means of Navigation, may be, nevertheless, great Gainers by it. This will be best understood by the Trade of the *East-India* Company ; a Trade, that in it self would certainly prove hurtful to the Nation, if all their Importation was for Home-consumption ; but as these Commodities serve as a Subject for foreign Commerce, and contribute greatly to encourage Navigation, the Nation is certainly greatly profited by it.

INDIA Goods are now universally used over all *Europe* ; which cannot be prevented, unless we were to apply the pernicious Remedy of sumptuary Laws ; a Cure never to be reduced to Practice in a trading Country. If then we did not follow this Trade ourselves, other Nations would serve us with these Commodities, and reap the Profits of the Trade, at our Expence, as we do now by the Sale of them to other Countries. For Example : If we may be allowed to suppose, that one of the Company's

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Ships,

Ships, outward bound, on a trading Voyage, to the Coasts of *Arabia, Persia, India,* and *China,* &c. carries out 15,000 *l.* in Silver Bullion, and manufactured Goods to the Value of 5000 *l.* and on her Return brings in a Cargo to the Value of 100,000 *l.* all (except some unwrought Silk and Cotton, Yarn, Salt Petre, and dying Stuffs, for Home-manufacture) consisting of what some are pleased to call *Indian* Trifles. These, to the Value of 40,000 *l.* (whereof the Materials for Manufacture are a Part) are sold for Home-consumption, and the Remainder of this Cargo, to the Value of 60,000 *l.* (whereof *India* Damasks, and several other bale Goods, justly counterband, as interfering with our own Home-manufacture, are a Part) is again exported to other Countries. The Returns homeward for these *India* Goods consist of naval Stores, several Materials for Manufacture, and other useful Commodities. If the *India* Trade did not furnish us with Goods for Exportation, to purchase these Commodities, we should be obliged to send out our own Manufactures; which, if we did, in greater Quantities than those Countries have a Demand for, the Markets would be glutted, and we under a Necessity to sell our Goods at so much Loss, that it would be more our Interest to send out Gold and Silver. If the general Opinion be well founded, that the Balance of
Trade

Trade to those Countries is against us; notwithstanding all the Goods we export; then so many *India* Goods as are sent hither, so much is directly saved to the Nation in the Course of that necessary Trade. The Duties payable on *India* Goods consumed at home, is also a great Advantage to the Publick, as it is a Tax upon Luxury, and so far saves a Tax upon other Commodities, that are of necessary and universal Use.

THE Nation then loses by the *India* Trade (on this Supposition) *Cent. per Cent.* on the first Importation; and if we deduce from thence the Profits made by our own Manufacture, of the Materials by it imported, the Loss must be very small; but then we gain upon this Trade three *Cents per Cent.* by the Goods re-exported. Every Country that deals much in foreign Trade hath Profit and Loss, in this Way, upon several Branches of Trade.

FOREIGN Trade then, nationally considered, depends upon our Profits made by Navigation, as being Carriers of Goods for other Nations; and upon our Home-manufactures, as being able to furnish them with Merchandize to a greater Value than we take from them. If, on the main, in the Course of Trade with all the World, our Export exceeds our Import in Value, we

are Gainers by foreign Trade. If, on the contrary, our Import exceeds in Value our Export, we are Losers by it. Our chief Care then ought to be, to promote and encourage Manufacture, and that none of our Hands be allowed to be idle. That Country, where the People are employed, will always have an Advantage in Trade over any other, where they are allowed to be idle, whatever their Product be; for the Profits gained by every Nation, upon foreign Trade, must always be in Proportion to the Numbers and Industry of their Subjects.

EVERY trading Country has some particular Branch of Business that employs the greatest Number of their Hands, which they call their staple Commodity; this depends partly on some particular Product of their own, for Manufacture, but more upon their Skill and Dexterity in making their Goods of the best Quality of their Kind, in finishing of them to the best Advantage, to please the Eye of the Buyer, and upon their Diligence and Assiduity in the Dispatch of the Work; all which enable them to sell cheaper at a foreign Market than other Nations, who may be their Rivals in the Trade, can do. Sometimes the Staple of a trading Place consists only of Product, which, by its Situation, may be a Monopoly; as
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the Pipe and Hogthead Staves brought down by Water Carriage from the Woods of *Germany*, to, and exported from, *Hamburg*, are called the Staple of that Place; Timber and Tar the Staple of *Norway*, and Iron and Copper the Staple of *Sweden*.

WOOLLEN Goods are the staple Commodity of *England*, in which they have the natural Advantage of great Quantities of very good Wool of their own. But this bears no Proportion to the Skill of their Workmen, and to their Diligence in Labour, to the great Stocks of particular Clothiers, Piece-buyers, and other Dealers in every Branch of the woollen Trade, which enables them to stand the Shock of a bad Market, or any Stop or Damp on their Trade (which now and then happens from Causes unavoidable) without giving up, or stopping their Business. These are the Fruits of long Experience, and an unwearyed Application in Business, which brought the Trade to Perfection, and rendered it at last gainful to every Individual, as well as to the Nation in general, now for many Ages; and all this was owing to an Accident, by the *English* wisely improvén.

THE Wool of all the Growths of *Europe* was for many Ages bought up, and manufactured by the Inhabitants of the *Netherlands*,

lands, Subjects of the House of *Burgundy*, and by them *Europe* was served with woollen Goods. The woollen Trade was first set afoot in *England*, in the Reign of *Edw. III.** but it made small Progress until the Reign of *Philip II. of Spain*, when the *Spanish* Yoke became very heavy and severe upon the *Netherlanders*, whose civil Rights were invaded, and their ancient Privileges destroyed by *Spain*: But the Depopulation of these rich Countries, and the Flight of so many wealthy Inhabitants, was chiefly owing to the Bigotry of that Prince, and to one terrible Effect of Bigotry in Princes, *the absolute Suppression of Liberty of Conscience*; a Measure that no Man of Spirit, no honest Man, no Man of the least Worth, who has common Sense, can ever submit to.

It is both cruel and absurd in any Man, or Party of Men, to set up a Standard for regulating the Opinions of Mankind; and no less ridiculous than the Story of the Tyrant *Procrustes*, who is said to have made a Bed of Iron for the ascertaining of human Stature; those who were too long, had their Feet, or Part of their Legs chopped off, to make them fit his Bed; and those who were too short, were put on the Rack, to be drawn out to a sufficient Length. Our

* Act of Parliament at *Wesminster*, 1338.

Opinions are as various as our Sizes or Complexions, and as little (in many Cases) in our Power to help; and, is it not the Height of Arrogance and Impiety, for frail Man to controul the Works of Providence, and to chain up the Faculties of the Mind, which its Author and Creator made free? Nevertheless, Men of all others the most unfit for such an Undertaking, have often attempted it, and have too often succeeded in their Attempt. —

It is Matter of Wonder and Astonishment to common Sense, that Men, Strangers to the World, to the rest of Mankind, and to themselves, Men of narrow Minds, sour Tempers, and a morose Behaviour, who are limited in their Enquiries after Truth by Prejudices early imbibed, and by interested Dogma's imposed on them in their unripe Years, by the Authority of ambitious and designing Men, before they are capable to form any just Opinion of them themselves; that these Men should set themselves up as the Directors of Conscience, and, by assuming to themselves, from wrested Texts of Scripture, the Character of Infallibility, set up their own narrow, capricious, and interested Views, as the Standard to set Bounds and Limits to Reason and Conscience. Whoever is not stupid enough, not to discern their Errors, or

sufficiently stocked with Hypocrisy to give a seeming Compliance, must be brought to the Iron Bed of Trial. Gaols, Chains, and Tortures, must be applied to the Body, to cure the Mistakes and Errors of the Mind; and if these fail, the wretched Heretick (whom the unerring Canons and Decrees of these holy Guides have made so) must be spoiled of his worldly Goods, to satiate the Avarice and Luxury of these pretended Disciples of the Redeemer of Mankind, who declared, *that his Kingdom was not of this World*; and often, for the Good of his Soul, his Body must be committed to the Flames, to confirm their Infallibility, but, in reality, to gratify their relentless Cruelty and Pride.

WHEN these Subjects of *Spain* groaned under this heavy Yoke of spiritual Bondage and ecclesiastical Tyranny, *England* had the Happiness to be governed by the wisest Administration that ever Nation was blessed with. Numbers of wealthy Merchants and Manufacturers fled to *England* for Protection, and took with them all the Effects they could safely carry away. *Strada* acknowledges, that no less than 100,000 Families went over and settled in *Britain*, during these Troubles. In *England* they were kindly received, cherished, and encouraged. All the Privileges, Liberties, and Immunities of free Subjects, for the Security of their Properties,
civil

civil and sacred Rights, were chearfully granted them : And the good Effects of this wise Conduct soon appeared ; the Trade of *Europe* shifted its Abode with the Dealers, and the woollen Manufacture of *England* was, by these Means, and the Aid of publick Encouragement, carried on, and soon brought to Perfection. They not only manufacture their own Wool, but also the Wool of *Spain*, and the best Growths of other Countries ; and, in a great measure, may be justly called, The sole Masters of the Woollen Trade.

THE *Netherlanders* were Masters of the Linnen Trade as well as the Woollen ; and, during these Civil Wars, several of their Manufacturers in both, settled themselves also amongst us ; as in the old Burghs Weavers go still under the Denomination of *Brabanders*, from their Masters who taught them the Art : But we were then Strangers to Trade, and understood little of Manufacture, or of the great Advantages arising from thence to a Nation. War was our Trade, and military Discipline our Profession and sole Study. When we had Peace at home, our Gentlemen and Persons of Quality went abroad in quest of foreign Adventures, and carried with them Numbers of the common People as Soldiers and Troops for foreign Service. Many of them were engaged on
both

both Sides, in these Wars in the low Countries, but the greatest Numbers were in the Service of the confederated Protestants.

OUR Trade was carried on by the Inhabitants of the Coast Towns: Burgeses, a Degree of People below the Gentlemen of Estates, but above the Farmers, and Men at Arms, Rentalers, who held small Estates for military Service; not unlike the *Timar-riots* of *Turkey*, with this Difference, that many more of them depended on Subjects than on the Crown. Our Manufactures were carried on by the meanest of the People, who had small Stocks, and were of no Reputation. These were, for the most Part, Workmen for Home-consumption, such as Masons, House - Carpenters, Armourers, Blacksmiths, Taylors, Shoemakers, and the like. Our Weavers were few in Number, and in the greatest Contempt, as their Employments were more sedentary, and themselves reckoned less fit for War, in which all were obliged to serve, when the Exigencies of their Country demanded their Attendance.

THESE foreign Manufacturers taught us nevertheless to sort, wash, and dress Wool, to spin it, to weave Cloth and other wool-len Goods, and to mill and dress Cloth in a better Way than we did before. They also taught us to sow Lintseed, to raise, water
and

and dress Flax, to spin Linnen Yarn, and to weave and whiten both plain Linnen and Table Linnen of all sorts; but, as the Trade was in no Esteem, no body followed it, who had Stocks sufficient to carry it on to Purpose.

MANY of the Weavers wrought only for private Use, as Servants rather than Manufacturers, and these were the best Tradesmen; and as the Trade was intirely neglected by the Publick, those who made Goods for Sale, were left at large to make them as they pleased. Many Frauds and Abuses were of consequence committed in the Manufacture, which brought the Goods in Disrepute at a foreign Market, and rendered the Sales of them so precarious, and the Prices so low, that they could not be sold to Advantage, when other Goods were to be had, so that both the Makers and the Dealers were often Losers.

MR. *Law* in his Treatise on *Money and Trade*, says, “ That the Sloth, Idleness and
“ fraudulent Practices of any People, are
“ not owing to any natural Depravity or bad
“ Disposition peculiar to any People or
“ Country, but to bad Habits, acquired by
“ the Remissness, Negligence and Partiality
“ of a faulty Administration.” And *Machiavel* seems to be in the Right, when he
says,

says, " That good Laws alone, and these
" rigorously executed, make Men good."

THE Union of the Crowns proved a great Loss to us: For any Administration, though in many Respects faulty, is better than none. And in Matters of Police, (with regard to the publick Good of the Country, for the Encouragement of Commerce and Manufacture, by an impartial and rigorous Execution of good Laws) we may be said to have had no Administration from the Union of the Crowns to the Union of the Nations.

OUR great and popular Families were in former Ages justly considered as the Protectors of their Country, and Guardians of its Liberty: As they maintained our Freedom and Independency from foreign Invasion, and preserved publick Liberty from the arbitrary Measures and Encroachments of the Crown. These filled all the high Places, Stations and Offices of Trust, more by their hereditary Power, Popularity, and personal Credit, than by the Favour of the Prince; but when the Seat of Government was transferred from amongst us, they were supplanted by Court Favourites, and retired to their Country Seats disobliged, or went into foreign Service. They had no farther Occasion to make a Figure in War, their Power in Vassalage was of little Use, and their Influence

fluence of course decayed. They knew little of the Arts of Peace, and had no Disposition to cultivate them. The Advancement of Trade and Manufacture tended to enable the People to live by their own Industry, and to shake off their Dependence on them; so that they then became rather a Burden and a Loss to the Country.

THEIR Discontents appeared upon the first plausible Opportunity that offered itself: When King *Charles* I. attempted to force a Liturgy upon us, and to introduce the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of *England*, (with us reckoned superstitious) against the general Bent and universal Dispositions of the People, the Bishops were Court Prostitutes; and, as such, were hated and despised; and the inferior Clergy were by the Court neglected, and easily prevailed on to favour the Designs of the discontented Nobility. The Kirk Men inflamed the People, who, being united in their Measures by the Countenance of so many great Men, soon became formidable to the Court.

ON such Occasions a Country is always divided, and those of the Nobility who either possessed, or expected the Favour of the Court, were no less active on the other Side, to strengthen their Interest and Credit with the People, to carry on the King's Measures.

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Thus one Party asserting and maintaining the uncontrollable Power of the Crown in Matters of State, and of the Prelacy in Matters of Doctrine, Discipline, and Government in Ecclesiastical Affairs; and the other asserting publick Liberty, and to maintain the People in the free Exercise of their just Rights and Privileges, and Parity amongst the Ministers, independent of the Prelates, the Nation was involved in Confusion and Civil War.

THIS War was carried on with great Violence on both Sides, and so intent was each Party on Success, that many of the greatest and most wealthy and powerful of the Nobility, sold or mortgaged their Estates for Money, to purchase Arms, and to raise and maintain Troops to carry it on; the one endeavouring to place the Sovereignty above the Law, expected to be Sharers in the Conquest, and perpetual Ministers; (*as Men in Power and Favour never think of losing it*) and the other hoping to establish themselves in the Possession of their former Power (from which they saw themselves falling) by their own Credit and Prowess. The Conduct of some of the Nobility of those Times indeed plainly discovered a sincere Love of Liberty, and a disinterested Zeal for the publick Good: For although they opposed by Force
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of Arms the arbitrary and lawless Measures of the King, yet when the Opposition became too powerful, and the prevailing Faction refused to agree on reasonable Terms, to resettle the Constitution on the old Foundation, and to ascertain the Limits between the Prerogative of the Crown, and Liberties of the People, they joined the King with all their Power, and attempted, at the Risk of their Lives and Fortunes, to prevent that Misery which soon after happened, when all Parties fell as a Sacrifice under the cruel Yoke of a military Government. Even the leading Men of the House of Commons of *England*, who headed the Opposition from the Beginning, were obliged to stoop to the lawless Rules of their own Servants, *the Officers of the Army*, whom they had raised : And the General, who by Craft and Deceit got at last at the Head of it, like *Julius Cæsar*, betrayed the State that employed and trusted him, and turned those Arms put in his Hands for the Defence and Support of publick Liberty, to suppress and trample upon all Liberty.

THE Projects of our Nobility and Clergy had a very contrary Effect from what they proposed : The first, at least, many of the greatest and most ancient of the Nobility, found themselves and their Families in the Event stript of their Property and Power ;
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and, which was most lamentable, those who acted from a sincere and disinterested Principle, to save the State and serve their Country, shared the same Fate with the Court Minion and factious *Demagogue*: And when all was over, the past Merits of all were equally neglected and forgotten. The Clergy, at the same Time, who expected to rule the Laity with a high and arbitrary Hand, (which they did for some Time with great Severity and Wantonness) independent of the Civil Magistrate, were obliged to cringe and humble themselves at the Feet of a lawless Tyrant, who first abused and deceived them in their own Way, until by their Means he gained his End, and then treated them with Scorn and Contempt. The great and exorbitant Power of the ancient Nobility was, by these Means and Accidents, brought to an End at this Period: They subsist now in Name only, without Power to do great Good, or any Harm; and a Peer of Yesterday is possessed of as many Privileges as the oldest of them.

DURING these Civil Wars, the Inhabitants of *Fife*, by whom the Fishing Trade, and the Manufacture of Linnen, was carried on to a great Extent, took Arms in great Numbers, under the Command of the Head of a popular Family in that Shire, then possessed of great Property, and who was a Man^x of

x Lindsay Earl of Crawford.

of Spirit and great Resolution; and had the Misfortune to stand by this obstinate Leader at *Kilsyth*, until most of them were cut to Pieces. This impaired their Numbers, broke and dispersed many Families; and the Pilgrage of *Dundee* (where all their Wealth was lodged) not many Years after, completed the Ruin of those wealthy and industrious Tradesmen: And the military Government of *Oliver Cromwel*, which ensued, intirely discouraged all Manner of Business in this Part of the Island.

WHEN all these Troubles, Confusions and Oppressions were over, all Things were again settled upon the old Footing, in which all Parties, private Families and Persons concurred, as all had felt and suffered under the common Calamity. The long Peace that followed this Revolution, gave us a favourable Opportunity to improve our Trade and Manufactures, by the Encouragement of Industry and Fair-dealing, and the Discouragement of Idleness, Discord, and fraudulent Practices; and by these Means, the only Means by which a Nation can prosper, to retrieve our Affairs; but the Severities, which, during the Civil War, had been exercised by private Persons and Families upon one another, as the different Parties in which they happened severally to be engaged, prevailed; had riveted a Spirit of Rancour and

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Heart-burning in the Minds of many. The Church Government, then established, was altered, and Episcopacy was, against the universal Bent of the Nation, again settled. Universal Obedience to this new Establishment was forced by penal Laws; Liberty of Conscience was suppressed, and our Parliaments, during their short Sessions, were employed in contriving and passing Acts for these Purposes, and for throwing all the Power and publick Wealth into one Scale.

THE Standards of Party and Faction being thus again set up, our former Wounds were laid open, and our Divisions increased; as a Spirit of Resentment in those who had the Power in their Hands, begot a Spirit of Opposition and Hatred in those, who had it thrown upon their Shoulders: The Country, with Regard to its Police and publick Affairs, bled and groaned under the Weight of Party Rage. A Change of the Administration, yea even a Revolution of the Government, served only to transfer the Power from the Hands of those who had abused it, to them who had been oppressed by it; but they, in their Turn, followed too much the same Measures. The Claws of publick Ministers were indeed pared by the Claim of Right, and the Liberties and Properties of the Subjects were by that excellent Law, and some subsequent Statutes, better secured: But these
could

could not absolutely prevent the Effects of Resentment in those, who used their Power to aggrandize themselves at the Expence of them they disliked, or who were obnoxious to the prevailing Party.

FREQUENT Complaints were made of the Decay of our Manufactures ; and both Parties concurred to apply proper Remedies to remove the Cause, as this interfered not with the particular Views, or Interests of either. Rules were accordingly made, and the Observation of them appointed under proper Penalties by publick Authority, but no publick Encouragement given. • Strange ! — that when we had the Power in our own Hands, to tax ourselves for the Improvement of our Manufacture, we did not as the *Irish* have done.

THESE Laws could have no Effect, as they were attended by no certain Execution, but left at large to the Discretion of every Sheriff, Stewart, Lord or Bailie of Regality, &c. whereby the common Saying was verified, *What is every Body's Business, is rarely minded by any Body.* When Complaint was made of an Abuse to the proper Judge, Pity and Solicitation often prevailed on him to remit the Penalty ; and his Compassion for a private Offender, getting the better of his Duty to the Publick, the Laws made for the

Good of the Publick were thus rendred void, and of no Effect. Now and then a particular Person, who had the Good of his Country at Heart, applied himself with Rigour and Diligence to put the Laws in Execution; but as this was done in one Corner only, it had no other Effect than to hurt those who were thus forced to a Compliance: For although their Goods were better made, yet they laboured under the Disadvantage of the common Discredit all the Goods of that Kind were under, and so they could not draw for them at the Market a Price adequate to their real Value. But,

THE Execution of the Linnen Act, made in the last Year of the Reign of his late Majesty, is absolutely secured. Proper Persons are thereby appointed, (and suitably encouraged) to inspect, examine, measure, and make up every Piece of Linnen Cloth, before it is offered to Sale, and then he is to affix his Stamp to ascertain the Sufficiency of the Goods, that the whole Piece is equally good from End to End, and no Part of it worse than the Lap-yard or outside Cover, which every Buyer sees and can judge of, that it is not less in the Breadth than his Mark bears, and contains precisely the Number of Yards by him marked on it. This Stamp, besides the Breadth and Length, consists of his own Name, and the Name of
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the County where he resides, to the End he may be easily discovered and convicted, in case the Cloth by him stampd is not in all Respects in the Terms of the Act, and any Buyer may recover of him the Penalty in a summary Way, without Trouble or Expence. If Cloth is offered to be stampd that is insufficient, it is, when tried and condemned, as the Act directs, confiscated, and cut in small Pieces below the Length allowed to be stampd, to prevent its being fold. The Stamp-master cannot be possibly corrupted to dispense with his Duty, because all the confiscated Cloth, and Penalties, are adjudged to himself, and if he stamp insufficient Cloth, or mark on it a greater Breadth than it is of, or more Yards than it contains, the Penalty falls on himself, besides the Loss of his Office. If Cloth is offered to Sale unstampd, the Seller is liable in a Penalty; if sold unstampd, both Buyer and Seller are liable in a Penalty; and if the Stamp-master, through Collusion, or even out of Pity and Tenderneſs, should connive at the Sale of Cloth unstampd, the Trustees would, on such Information well vouched, dismiss him from his Office, and the Cloth is still liable to be seized for such Offence by any other Stamp-master.

EVERY Offence against the Regulations enacted by this Law, is to be tried and judged in the Country, by one or more

Justice or Justices of the Peace, and within Burgh, by one or more Magistrate or Magistrates; and these are the sole Judges from whom there lies no Appeal, except to their own Quarter Sessions, and their Sentence is final; and they are appointed, if the Appellant is cast, to award double Costs against him. Nor can the Execution of this Law be stopt or delayed, by the Artifice of any litigious Offender, by any Sift or Suspension of the Lords of Session, or any other Judge; neither have these Judges any *Officium nobile*, or discretionary Power to dispense with any Penalty, other than the Law directs; and if any Judge shall neglect or refuse to execute the Law, when Application is made to him, or Malverse in the Exercise of it, he is subjected to a Penalty of no less than 100 *l.* — to be imposed by the Lords of Justiciary in their Court at *Edinburgh*, or in the Country at their Circuits, and a sufficient Fund is appointed for carrying on these Prosecutions.

NEVER was any Law better concerted to answer the great and good Ends proposed by it; a Law so well contrived for the Good of the Country, well deserves the Consideration of every one who loves his Country; every Person, at least every Dealer, and every Justice of Peace, and Magistrate, ought always to have a Copy of it by them, as well as every Stamp Master.

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THE ^{*}Funds appropriated by Law for encouraging the Linnen Manufacture, are very small, and bear no Proportion to the Demands of the Manufacture, was it to be improved and brought to Perfection so soon as the present low State and Exigencies of the Country require. Nevertheless, Justices of Peace, and Magistrates, in every Corner, have hitherto behaved themselves so much like Men of Worth, and acted by a sincere and disinterested Principle to promote the publick Good, and have been so faithful, diligent and impartial in executing the Law; and the Trustees appointed by his present Majesty's Letters Patents, for the Distribution of the Funds appropriated for encouraging the Fisheries and Manufactures, have been so careful in their Application of these Funds committed to their Care, to the best Advantage; and to encourage those Stamp-masters, who have been faithful, diligent, and exact in the Execution of the great Trust committed to them; and to discourage and cashier those who have been negligent or unfaithful, that the Linnen Trade is already increased in its Quantity, and improved! exceedingly improved! in its Quality*, even beyond our utmost Hopes. We

now

* The Linnen Act of Parliament commenced the first of November, 1727. There were stamped for Sale the first Year preceding the first of November, 1728. in the West, and Countries on the South Side of the River of Tay, viz.

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* These are £2000 ^{per ann.} by act 5. Geo. 1. C. 20 ^{In} 14
 & the surplus of the malt duty above £20,000 ^{per ann.}

now know, from certain Experience, that this Trade will turn to Account, and to a

	Yards.	Value.
In the Countries Be- north Tay, }	1,047,254 $\frac{1}{4}$	L. 66850 10 04
	1,136,723 $\frac{1}{4}$	L. 36461 18 11
Total Quantity - - -	2,183,978	L. 103312 09 03
Second Year preceding the first of November, 1729.		
South, - - - - -	1,213,013 $\frac{1}{4}$	L. 59815 14 09
North, - - - - -	2,012,142 $\frac{1}{4}$	L. 54568 04 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total, - - - - -	3,225,155 $\frac{1}{4}$	L. 114383 19 08 $\frac{1}{2}$
Increased 1729. - - -	1,041,177 $\frac{1}{4}$	L. 11071 10 00
Third Year preceding the first of November, 1730.		
South, - - - - -	1,537,011 $\frac{1}{4}$	L. 68777 00 09 $\frac{1}{2}$
North, - - - - -	2,218,651	L. 62485 15 02 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total, - - - - -	3,755,662 $\frac{1}{4}$	L. 131262 15 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Increase, - - - - -	530,506 $\frac{1}{4}$	L. 16878 16 03 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fourth Year preceding the first of November, 1731.		
South, - - - - -	1,621,679 $\frac{1}{4}$	L. 79477 18 04 $\frac{1}{4}$
North, - - - - -	2,269,893 $\frac{1}{4}$	L. 66178 15 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total, - - - - -	3,891,573	L. 145656 14 03
Increase, - - - - -	135,910 $\frac{1}{4}$	L. 14393 18 03 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fifth Year preceding the first of November, 1732.		
South, - - - - -	1,751,038	L. 86566 17 07 $\frac{1}{4}$
North, - - - - -	2,633,794 $\frac{1}{4}$	L. 81755 17 03 $\frac{1}{4}$
Total, - - - - -	4,384,832 $\frac{1}{4}$	L. 168322 14 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Increase, - - - - -	493,259 $\frac{1}{4}$	L. 22666 00 07 $\frac{1}{4}$

This is besides Cloth made for private Use, of which large Quantities of high-priced Cloth for Shirting have been lately made since the Commencement of this Act. The Values are taken up by the Stamp-masters at the lowest Estimate.

Increased in five Years, in Consequence of the Execution of this Act of Parliament, and the small Encouragements, in Quantity, - - - - - 2,200,854 $\frac{1}{4}$ Yards.

In Value, - - - L. 65010 05 02

very

very great Account; that it is the only Branch of Business that can employ all our Hands profitably, and a Business that can never be overstocked. But before I enter upon a particular Detail of the Faults and Defects it still labours under, and of the proper Methods to cure and amend them, I shall beg Leave to take a short View of the State of our Trade, and our other Manufactures, as they are at present, to the end every one may judge with the greater Accuracy and Exactness, what Branches of Business already are, or are liable to be overstocked; what Kinds of Trade or Manufacture ought to be dropped and disused, as unprofitable to the Country; and how much it imports us, that all our idle Hands should be bred up to, and employed in, the Linnen Trade, upon which chiefly the Happiness and Prosperity of this Nation depends.

To *Norway* we send out as much malted Barley and other Grain, as very near answers all our Demands for the bulky Trade brought from thence. When our Coast-fishing is successful, our white Herrings, Mud-fish, dried Cod and Ling, home-made Salt, and a few coarse Woollens exported, are equal in Value to all our Demands from the *Baltick*, *Hamburgh*, and *Bremen*. Formerly we brought from *Holland* several
Kinds

Kinds of Goods to a very great Value, but now we are served with most of those Goods from *London*; and of late we begin to save a very heavy Article (I may say now, intirely) of fine Linnen, which we have of our own Manufacture since the late Improvement: And if the Cambrick Manufacture goes on as it promises, we shall soon be able to furnish ourselves also with that Commodity. The most valuable Goods now brought from thence are Velvets, Bonlace, and Cambricks, and some *Indian* Goods, which are mostly imported in the smuggling Way. To answer these Demands, we send our smelted Lead, Lead Ore, and some coarse woollen Goods; but, by the Course of our Exchange to *Holland*, the Balance of that Trade seems still to be against us.

THE *French* Trade is intirely against us. The Wines we bring from the Bay, and the pernicious Article of Brandies (which, to the Shame of every honest Man who can prevent it, be it spoken, are all imported in the smuggling Way) are of a great Value; to pay these, they take nothing from us, but a little Lead, salt Salmon, and very rarely Wheat, when Grain bears a Price in *France*; but as the Money to pay the Balance of this Trade is remitted by Bills of Exchange from *London*, it may be considered as an Article of our Trade with *England*.
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Our Demands from *Spain*, *Portugal*, and the *Mediterranean*, are of small Value. Our dried Cod-fish, coarse Serges, and the Profits gained by Freights of a few Ships we have commonly employed on Freight in those Seas, are near equal in Value to all the Goods we bring from thence. The Trade to the Coasts of *Guinea* is a great Benefit to the Nation, but it is attended with many Risks; and, as the private Adventurers are rarely Gainers by it, we have but a few Ships employed in that Trade.

WE are Gainers by our Trade to the Plantations; for all the Goods we bring from thence, for home Consumption, are not equal in Value to our own manufactured Goods we send out. *England* shares with us the Profits of this Trade, because a Part of every Cargo sent from hence to the Plantations, consists of *English*-made woollen Goods, Iron Tools, and Cutlery Ware.

OUR Dealings with *Ireland* are scarce worth mentioning. They buy up large Quantities of our fine Linnen Yarn in the West, as do the Manufacturers of *Manchester* and *Kendale*, Yarn of a coarser Staple in other Parts, for Warp to their wrought Inkles, Fustians, and Linsy-woolies, which is a great Loss to us; but this can be no otherwise prevented, than by the Improvement

ment of our own Weavers. When they work as well, and as cheap as the *Irish*, we can then afford to give as high a Price for our own Yarn as they do. We bring from *Ireland* dressed Leather, and raw Hides, and Oatmeal, when our own is above a certain Price; but the Coals we send them on our own Bottoms, are, at least, equal in Value to all we take from them. But from *England* our Demands are many, and of a very great Value.

FROM *England* we are served with Broad Cloths of all Kinds, from the best *Spanish* Wool Superfines, to the lowest priced *York-shires*; with *Norwich* Goods of all Kinds, with Silk Hose of all Kinds, and large Parcels of fine woollen Hose; with Silks and Silk Stuffs of all Kinds and Prices; Mohair Goods, Cotton Goods, fine Hats, Gold and Silver Laces, and Twist, with all the Toy Trade, Tools, and all Sorts of Ironmongers Ware, and Cutlery Ware, Drinking Glasses and Mirrors, and fine Furniture of various Kinds; *Indian* Goods that pay Duty at the Port of *London*, of all Sorts, with many other Goods of lesser Value, all for home Consumption, which to enumerate would be endless. To all this we have to add another very heavy Article against us, in the Balance of our Trade with *London*, our Expence there; that the Persons of Quality
who

who have the best Estates here, live for the most part at *London*, and have all their Rents sent thither in Specie, or by Bills of Exchange, and are there consumed. All our Trade then may be said to center at the Port of *London*; and if we can balance our Accounts with *England*, we are Gainers by Trade; but if all the Goods we are able to send to *England* do not come up to the Value of these Demands they have upon us, we are Losers by Trade nationally.

THE first Article we have to answer all these Demands consists of Product, *namely*, our black Cattle and Sheep, and some of our Wool, when the woollen Trade in *England* is quick. This Article cannot be well increased; for we cannot sell a greater Number of Cattle or Sheep, than those breeding Countries can feed and spare; and their Value, like other Commodities, depends on the Demand. Were indeed our low Grounds all inclosed, and more of them turned into Grass, our Numbers of black Cattle might be increased, and we might sell a much greater Number than we do now, and those too of a better Size, and higher Price; which would certainly turn to a better Account than Grain, since we find *England* has rarely any Demand for Grain. We send also to *England* Sheepskins, dressed and undressed, Tallow, Eggs,
fresh

fresh Salmon, Lobsters, and such like Commodities of mean Value. But Product is not to be relied on as an Article for Trade; in this Respect it increases most by Depopulation: When the Grounds of a Country are turned into Pasture, and few People to consume the Beasts that are bred and fed on them, or to use the Manufactures, or other Commodities of foreign Nations; a Nation thus thinly inhabited, may balance its small Demands from other Countries with its Product.

Is not the great Exportation of Grain from the *Levant*, and Coasts of *Barbary*, more owing to the Want of People to consume it, than to the Fertility of the Soil? But a Country well stocked with People, who live comfortably by their Industry and Labour, will consume all its own Product; and if that is insufficient, they can afford to purchase Provisions from other Nations. The Product of *Holland* is not sufficient to maintain its Inhabitants six Months of the Year; and yet they are plentifully provided with all the Necessaries of Life.

ENGLAND abounds with Provisions of all Sorts: And was our Country as populous, in proportion to its Extent and Quality of the Soil, and our People as industrious and well employed as the *English* are,

are, we should consume, and be able to pay as good a Price for our own Product as they do. Our chief Care then ought to be, to advance, by proper Encouragements, the Manufacture of those Goods which sell in *England* with Profit, to increase their Quantity, and to improve them in their Quality and Goodness, which will advance their Price: Or, which is the same thing, to promote the Manufacture of those Goods now made at home, (which we have from *England* in great Quantities) if they may be made cheaper here than they can be bought in *England*: For so much as the Quantities of these are increased, so far are our Demands from *England* diminished. To begin then with woollen Goods:

AT *Kilmarnock* are made of our own Wool, low-priced Serges, known by the Name of that Place where they are made. These are partly for home Consumption, and partly for the Markets of *Holland*: And by the Help of a little Care and Encouragement, Burying Crapes, at least those of a low Price, might also be made there for home Consumption. — At *Stirling*, and its Neighbourhood, large Quantities of Serges are made, and several other low priced woollen Goods for Furniture, all for Home-consumption, and rather cheaper than such Goods can be purchased in *England*. This
Business,

Business, by the Care and Vigilance of the Justices of Peace in those Parts, is much improved of late. At *Aberdeen*, and Countries adjacent, large Quantities of our own coarse tarred Wool are manufactured into coarse Serges, called *Fingrams*, and knit Stockings of all Prices. Some of these Goods are consumed at Home, some of them exported to *Holland*, and some of them sold at *London*, and from thence are exported to foreign Parts. At *Edinburgh*, fine Shalloons are made of our best Wool, for home Consumption, and cheaper than they can be had in *England*. At *Musleburgh* there is a considerable Manufacture of low pric'd narrow Goods, from thence called *Musleburgh* Stuffs, for home Consumption and Exportation to the Plantations; but these are now fallen so low in the Price, that the Makers can scarce get their Bread by them. At *Gallowshiels* are made a few coarse Kerseys, called *Gallowshiels* Grays, for Home-consumption; and was their Wool better scribed, their Goods more milled and better dressed, they might serve in place of the lowest pric'd *Yorkshires*, for Country Wear, to ordinary People and Day Labourers. At *Kirkcudbright*, *Hawick*, *Monygaff*, and other Places near the Wool Countries, several Packs of tarred Wool have been washed and cleaned, and some of it sorted and combed, spun, and wrought up into Blankets, and other coarse Goods, by
private

private Hands, for their own Use ; all done by the Help of publick Encouragement, to advance the Price of Wool in those Parts, but as yet to little or no Purpose.

THE Gentlemen who procured a publick Fund for encouraging the Manufacture of our coarse Wool, seem to have been Strangers to the Business, when they adjected this Condition, to limit the Encouragement to those Counties where the Wool is produced ; the Consumption of that Wool can only be made by the Encouragement of its Manufacture, in those Places already mentioned, where it now is, and where it has been carried on for many Ages ; for in the Wool Countries there are not Hands for Manufacture. — A Farmer or Store Master, as they are called in those Grounds for Sheep Walk, who pays 200 *l.* a Year Rent, has no more People in his Family, besides himself, Wife and Children, than three or four Herds, and as many Maid Servants for milking his Ewes, and doing his other necessary Work. All that can be proposed there, is to clean and wash their Wool, and to send it to the Market sorted ; and in this they will save a great deal of Carriage.

ONE Branch of our woollen Manufacture ought to be altered, and that is our Bed Blankets. We have always been in Use to fur-

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nish ourselves with these; but we spin them a great deal too fine, and make them after the manner of fine Kerseys; they consume little Wool, and, as they require much manufacture, they become dear, and before one is sufficiently warm, he is loaded by their Weight. One Effect of this is, that of late several People have furnished themselves with *English* Blankets, because they are both warm and light, and as they require little Work, they come cheaper. These are spun loose and thick, very slightly woven, but well mill'd, and then the Wool on both Sides is well raised by Tassels. They do not wear near so long as ours; for when the Wool is worn off, they are good for nothing; but then two Pair of them will serve in place of three Pair of ours; and as they are lower in the Price, one may be served as cheap in the main with them, as with ours; and the oftner the User goes to the Market, the greater is the Consumption of Wool. This Manufacture requires few Hands, and is soon understood: And where-ever there is a Conveniency of a River for Tuck Mills near the Wool Countries, they may be made.

As for the Manufacture of Broad Cloth, that consists of so many Parts, that we cannot carry it on without evident Loss. *First*, We have no such Thing as a Wool-stapler

Woolstapler * in the Country, which lays the Clothier under a Necessity to buy his Wool in the Fleece; and unless he work up all the Sorts himself, (which no Clothier can do without great Loss) he must lose by those Sorts he does not use. The washing, cleaning, and drying of Wool, by beating it on the Flecks, we understand pretty well; but we neither dye Wool so well, nor so cheap, as the *English* do; and we have but few Scriblers who understand the close mixing of Wool on the Cards for Medleys. Our Women are all bred to spin Linnen Yarn, and are not so fit to spin Woollen, especially carded Wool for Cloth, which no one can do to Purpose, who is not constantly employed at it. We understand the picking of Cloth, and the thickening of it at the Mill, pretty well; but we are not so adroit at the tasseling it on the dubbing Boards, and are at a Loss that we have no Tassels of our own Growth fit for this Work, but are obliged to bring them from *England* in large Quantities to lie by us, as we have Occasion to use them. The most curious and difficult Operation of the Whole, is the cut-

* The Woolstapler buys up the Wool in the Fleece, and divides it into Sorts, and keeps his Warehouses in those Towns where the Manufacture of Broad Cloth is carried on: Every one confines himself to the making of Goods of one Staple, and, as he has Occasion, buys from the Woolstapler the particular Sort of Wool he deals in.

ting on the Shearboard, and finishing in the Hot Press. We have no Shearmen of our own, that understand their Business to Perfection, and as few Pressmen, and must bring our Press Papers from *England*; and the Profits of the whole Manufacture depend upon the close and equal cutting from End to End, and upon proper and clean Papers for every Staple of Cloth, and a just Degree of Heat and Pressure in the Hot Press, neither too much nor too little of either.

THE *English* have been long Masters of the Woollen Trade, their Clothiers and Piece-buyers are Men of Stocks able to carry it on, to keep their Goods upon Hand until a Market offers, to sell them at reasonable Rates, and upon long Time. *England* is sufficiently stocked, nay, one may say, overstocked with the best of Workmen in every Branch of the Woollen Trade; and no Country can succeed, so as to be great Gainers by any Manufacture, until it is sufficiently stocked with good Manufacturers, that their Wages may be brought low enough to enable them to under-sell their Neighbours in that Commodity at a foreign Market: Whereas we have no Stocks equal to so great an Undertaking. We must also be at the Expence to bring from *England* Workmen for several Branches, and to pay them higher Wages than they get at home;
and

and we cannot expect to get their best Workmen. These, and many other Difficulties already hinted at, not easily to be conquered, render it absolutely impossible for us to succeed in the Woollen Trade, at least, in Broad Cloth, Druggets, fine Kerseys, and the Woollen Goods of *Norwich*; nor is this any Loss to us, since we have a Staple Manufacture of our own, at least may have, *the Linnen*, in which the *English* deal not. They are too wise to encourage any Manufacture in the weaving Way, that might interfere with their great Staple *the Woollen*: And we should learn of them to discourage every Trade that may interfere with, or hinder the Progress of our only Staple.

WE may then reasonably suppose, on the lowest Computation, that we can buy (and, from daily Experience, we know it to be so) those Woollen Goods 10 and 15 *per Cent.* cheaper in *England*, than we can make them at home; and if we can make Linnen Cloth, and sell it in *England* from 5 to 10 *per Cent.* Profit, and purchase, in Exchange for it, Woollen Goods 10 and 15 *per Cent.* cheaper than we can make them at home, then are we Gainers by this Trade from 15 to 20 *per Cent.* and of Consequence, so many Hands as are employed in the Woollen, who might be employed in the Linnen, just so much does the Country lose by their Labour.

WHAT puts this Position (of itself sufficiently evident) beyond all Question, was the Experiment we made of a Manufactory of Broad Cloth at *Newmills*, near *Haddingtoun*, before the Union. As good Superfines were there made, as ever were made in *England*; but by reason of the Disadvantages we laboured under in this Trade, already mentioned, the Dealer paid for them 25 *per Cent.* more than he could have bought them for in *England*. As this Trade was carried on by a Company, no doubt their Loss was greater, than if it had been carried on by private Hands; but if 10 *per Cent.* is allowed for Management, and that is a great deal more than any Business can bear, the Trade was still unprofitable, though it had been carried on by private Hands, and a great Loss to the Country. *English* made Cloths were contraband; but as all the Cloths we could make ourselves bore no Proportion to our Consumption, great Quantities of *English* Cloths were clandestinely imported; for the great Profits the Dealers made then by them, were sufficient to answer their Risk of Confiscation, if taken.

WE had, at the same Time, a Manufactory for Silk Goods, which was managed in the same Way; those who had the Monopoly of Silks, could answer but a small Part of our Demands; and they themselves, and
others

others by them connived at, with whom they shared the Profits, brought in Silk Goods from *England* and *Holland*, and sold them as their own Manufacture, upon which they were Losers. The Effect of all this was, that *England* would take none of our Linnen; and while we were thus, with the utmost Indiscretion, pushing an unprofitable Trade up Hill at a great Loss, we were destroying a most valuable Manufactory, *our Linnen*, which we might have carried on to Advantage. We also set up a publick Manufacture of fine Linnen at *Corstorphine*, to prevent the Importation of *Dutch* Linnen; and thus attempting to do every thing at once, (as if Manufacture were the Work of a Day, or an Act of Parliament sufficient to bring it to Perfection) we failed in every Thing; and, like the Dog in the Fable, *Grasping at many Shadows, we lost one real Substance*.

ABOUT this Time a Linnen Manufacture was set on Foot in the Counties of *Dorset* and *Devon*: But after the Treaty of *Ryswick*, *French* Linnen was run in upon those Parts, so cheap, that this Project failed, which was indeed ill laid, these Counties being so near the Woollen Trade; for the interfering of Manufactures is dangerous. But the Causes of these hasty Resolutions, and ill digested Projects, are now over for

ever. We are now united with *England*, and are both become one and the same Nation, whose common Freedom and Independency is maintained and defended from foreign Invasion and Encroachments, by the Vigilance and Care of the same Administration, and the joint Power of both in Proportion to our several Abilities: And our Properties, and the Enjoyment of our Liberties in Things civil and sacred, is secured to us by the same Laws. We have equally Access to the same Legislature for the Redress of Grievances, for supplying the Defects of any Law, for repealing those that may be hurtful or useless, and for rectifying what may be amiss or prejudicial to any Branch of Business, or to the common Interests of the Whole.

IN a Nation so populous and extensive as this Island of *Britain* is, Branches of Business might be carried on in different Parts, which might lay a Foundation for Division and Strife, through an interfering of different Interests: But it is happily otherwise with us; it is no less the Interest of *England* to promote and advance the Linnen Manufacture of *Scotland*, than it is our Interest to encourage, by our Consumption, &c. the Woollen Manufacture of *England*.

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ENGLAND is now served with fine Linnen from *Holland*, and Countries adjacent to it, and with Cambricks, and other Sorts of Linnen from *Holland* and *France*; and the Balance of Trade with both those Countries is against *England*. *England* and the *British* Plantations are served with great Quantities of middling and low priced Linnen of divers Sorts, from *Silesia* and other Parts in the upper and lower Circle of *Saxony*. Formerly those Countries took large Quantities of Woollen Goods from *England*, and then that Trade was profitable to *England*; but now they have Manufactures of Woollen in several Places of their own, which serves a great Part of their Consumption of low priced Cloths, and lessens their Demands for Woollen Goods from *England*, whereby the Balance of Trade with them is now against us.

THE Balance of Trade betwixt *England* and *Scotland*, and *England* and *Ireland*, is on the *English* Side; and so far as *England* and the Plantations can be served with Linnen from *Scotland* and *Ireland*, instead of *Holland*, *France*, *Germany* and *Russia*, so far is *England* a Gainer by this Change in the Course of Trade. The more Linnen we can sell in *England*, the more Woollen Goods we can purchase in *England*; and it may be reasonably

sonably supposed, that our Demands from *England* will always increase in Proportion to the Increase of our People and Linnen Manufacture. It is then evidently the Interest of *England* to promote and advance the Manufacture of Linnen in *Scotland*, and to give us all reasonable Advantages in the Trade, in Preference to Foreigners, where the Balance of Trade is against us; and this seems to be the Sense of the Nation, since all foreign Linnen for home Consumption pays a Duty.

FOREIGN Linnen, indeed, exported to the *British* Plantations, draws back the whole Duty to a Trifle; and this was a necessary Measure, when our Linnen Trade was reduced to so low an Ebb, and the *Irish* Manufacture but in its Infancy; so that neither of us were able to furnish them with any large Quantity: But now that we have, in some Measure, retrieved that Branch, and that the *Irish*, as well as we, are daily increasing our Quantities of Linnen Goods, we ought to have all the Advantages in the Trade; that the Interest of *England*, as well as the Interests of this Part of the united Kingdom and of *Ireland*, plainly requires. This may be done, if all foreign Linnen, when exported to the Plantations, should be allowed to draw back only one Half of the Duty it pays on Importation, or such a Proportion

Scotland *considered*, &c. 111

portion of it, as may be thought reasonable, to give us a Preference in the Trade.

WE are also much abused, and the Publick no less so, by the clandestine Importation of fine Linnen and Cambricks, without Payment of Duties, which might easily be prevented thus: That every Piece of such Goods, when the Duty is paid, should receive a Stamp at the Custom-House where they were entered, on each End of the Piece; and where-ever such Goods are found without this Duty Stamp, or the *British* or *Irish* Stamps, appointed by Law to be put on all home made Goods, they may be seized and confiscated.

OSNABURGS, and other low priced foreign Goods of that Kind, used in *England* for Tillating, lining of Furniture, and such Uses, and in the Plantations for Drawers to our Negroes, ought likewise to be subjected to a Duty not to be drawn back on Exportation, to encourage our Manufacture of that Commodity, whereof we make very large Quantities in *Angus*; and it is a Trade that employs a great Number of Hands.

THE former Experiences we have had of the Care and Tendernefs of a *British* Parliament, for the common Interests of every Part of the united Kingdom, give us good Ground

Ground to hope for these reasonable Encouragements, in this Trade, that depend on the Legislature. It is therefore most humbly submitted to our Representatives in Parliament, to put these Matters in a just Light, and to prepare a proper Application, in due Form, for that Purpose; but the great Encouragement depends upon ourselves, *viz.* to increase the Quantity of our Linnen Goods, and to improve them in Goodness. But before I enter upon the Faults and Defects in the Manufacture of our Linnen, I shall, as I proposed, go on, in few Words, to our other Manufactures.

WE see plainly how far our Woollen may and ought to be encouraged, and what Branches of it ought to be given up as a Loss to the Country. All our other home-made Goods are mostly for home Consumption, and are all made in *England*, fully better, and sold cheaper than here, which must be owing to the superior Skill and Diligence of their Tradesmen, since Living is easier here than in most Places of *England*.

IT is the Interest of every Community, that every Art practised in it should be improved to the utmost Perfection; and the Livelihood of the Artificer himself depends upon his Knowledge of his Trade, and upon his Diligence in his Application to it.
When

When any Branch of Business is overstocked, the bad Tradesmen feel the Effects of it first; but a good and diligent Workman will always get his Bread at home or abroad.

THE readiest Way to improve our Tradesmen is, that when they have served an Apprenticeship here, they should go to *England*, and work for some Years with the best Masters, and neatest handed Workmen; and when they are perfect Masters of their Trade, if there is as good Encouragement for it at home as abroad, they will naturally return and settle in their own Country. If all our spare and idle Hands were employed in the Linnen, and thereby enabled to live comfortably by their own Labour, and to bring in a little Wealth to the Country, the Improvement of our other Manufactures might be safely left to themselves; for it is more our Interest to be served with several Kinds of Goods from *England*, such as Iron Tools, Cutlery, Glass, Toy Wares, and the like, so long as they are bought cheaper in *England*, and our Linnen sells to Advantage there, than to be overstocked in any Branch of Business, which we cannot export; and in this our greatest Danger lies.

TRADES for home Consumption, which can only be followed by Persons constantly residing

residing in the Country, such as Masons, House and Ship Carpenters, Slaters, Tailors, Gardeners, and the like, cannot indeed be wanted: But in these we are most ready to overstock; and when this happens, they must go abroad, or starve at home.

OUR ordinary People have been long in use to breed their Children to be Tailors, because they did it at a small Expence; and the Effect of it is, that by far the greatest Number of them, after they have learned their Trade, go abroad for higher Wages. Great Numbers of these leave the Country every Year, and never return; which is a great Loss to us: We are at the Charge of breeding and educating them, and Strangers reap the Benefit of their Labour, at our Expence. Of late Years we have bred great Numbers of Gardeners, who go abroad in the same Way; and many of our young Joyners, and other young Tradesmen, go now and then to the Plantations, for want of suitable Encouragement at home. Were all these supernumerary Tradesmen bred to be Linnen Weavers, how much might this valuable Manufacture be encreased, by employing in it so many more Hands?

As Manufacture was in no Esteem, Men of Fortune thought it beneath them to breed their Children to any Business of that Sort;
and

and therefore, since War ceased to be our chief Trade, the Professions of Law, Physick, the Business of a foreign Merchant, and Shopkeeper, reckoned the only suitable Employments for Persons of Birth and Fortune, have been greatly overstocked. Many Gentlemen, after an expensive Education, are obliged to betake themselves to another Way of Life; or, if they want Spirit and Discretion, to continue in an idle and fruitless Attendance, a Burden upon their Friends and Country. Some young Physicians go abroad, and succeed generally very well; and of four Surgeons bred in the Country, three go abroad, and of these scarcely one in ten returns: For a few Men of Genius are sufficient to serve the Country in these Professions of Law and Physick, &c.

SEVERAL young Men, bred to no Business, pretend to turn Merchants, and follow Trade in the smuggling Way; and thereby do great Hurt to the fair Trader, and to their Country; and in the Event ruin (for the most part) themselves.

THE Business of a retailing Shopkeeper, whom we call a Merchant, is to buy Goods in large Quantities from the Merchant, or the Manufacturer, or, by Commission, from their Factors, and to sell them out in small Quantities to the User for home Consumption.

tion. This Business requires a large Stock, and a close and regular Attendance. When this Trade is overstocked, these Dealers suffer greatly by it; they are obliged to give too ample Credit, to get their Goods sold, and to depend upon their Customers for their Business. They are shy in calling for their Money in due Time, in a peremptory Way, lest they offend, and lose a Customer; and thereby they lose more by their bad Payments, than the Profits of their Trade can bear. They run a great Risk of Losses by bad Debts; and, which is worst of all, a Shopkeeper cannot give over without great Loss, because a Shop's Stock of Goods cannot be otherwise disposed of.

AFTER the Revolution many Churches continued vacant for several Years, and young Men were no sooner qualified for the Ministry, than they were sure of a Settlement; and even too many were admitted (to the Discredit of the Profession) before they were so well qualified for it, as the Dignity of the Office requires. Our Church Livings are but small, and therefore few People of Rank, or any Condition, educate their Sons for Clergymen; whereby these many Vacancies were a great Temptation, and an Encouragement to People of low Rank to follow that Profession. One bad Effect of this Way of supplying vacant Churches,

Churches, to the Publick, is, that as these Clergymen have nothing but their Stipends to depend upon, unless they are frugal beyond Measure, and parsimonious to a Fault; if they have Wives and Children, these must be left indigent, as Burdens upon the Publick.

THE Case is now much altered as to Vacancies; for, at present, we are so overstocked with young Clergymen, that one half of the Probationers, who are now Candidates for the supplying of Churches as they fall vacant, can never, in Reason, hope to be provided for*: And yet we go on to increase their Number in the same Way. Where one placed Minister dies, at least three young Men are licensed; the Reason of this seems to be, that mean People, out of Vanity, because some of their Relations are Ministers, will educate a Son in this Way, to push him into a Rank in the World above his Birth and Condition: And to effectuate this, all his Acquaintances are teased with constant Solicitation to procure a Burfary for this hopeful Boy, because his Parents are not able to give him such an Education. This Burfary serves him for

* There are but 940 beneficed Clergymen in *Scotland*; and, at this Time, the licensed Preachers exceed 300, and the Students of Divinity exceed that Number.

Bread, and mean Bread it is, during his four Years Attendance at the University; and then another must be procured, to maintain him other four Years at the Divinity Hall. After this, and perhaps sooner, they get into some Family as Chaplain, or Tutor to a young Gentleman. So many as can procure Business of this Kind, are in a fair Way of Success; but many are forced to take up with a private Family, or an old Widow Gentlewoman, and serve her as Chaplain for his Diet; and, by assisting a few Boys at publick Schools to get their Lessons, pick up as much as keep them in Cloaths. What can be expected from such a poor Education, and so low a Way of Life?

THE Publick suffers greatly under this heavy Burden of so many idle and useless Hands; and of all Professions, an unemployed Clergyman is the most helpless and useless Member of Society. The Settlement of vacant Parishes, ever since (that by this great overstocking of Clergymen) so many competing Candidates appear for every Vacancy, has also been the Cause of much Strife and Debate: The vacant Parish it self is not only divided and rent in Pieces, and its Peace broken, but the whole Country is disturbed with these Settlements. New Dogma's and Opinions (and some have carried

ried them the Length of Principles and Matters of Confession) are strenuously maintained, and the Controversy on both Sides supported with great Zeal, at least with great Heat and Animosity, touching the Right of Callers, &c.

GREAT Art and Industry is used to procure Votes; and every Art and Contrivance that Clergymen are capable of, are put in Practice, to defeat the Pretensions of that Candidate, who is most likely to succeed, (if disagreeable to the Presbytery) to make Way for another to their good liking. When the People of a Parish are so unlucky as to be once divided, and engaged in these most unchristian Disputes, the Vacancy is rarely settled, until the Controversy has been tried and debated in every Judicatory, and at last finally determined by the Vote of the General Assembly; and even then some of the Brethren have had the Assurance (*Wantonness* some call it) to dispute their Authority.

THE most likely Way to put an End to, and to prevent the Growth of these Evils (and great Evils they are to the Country) seems to be, that the Patrons of these small Bursaries should unite two or three of them into one, and make them endure for a greater Number of Years, that they may be a sufficient Fund for the Education

cation of a Clergyman, and to keep him at his Studies, until he is sufficiently well qualified to enter upon the Office of the Ministry. Were these Bursaries thus increased to a sufficient Value, People of Condition, who are able to give their Children reasonable Provisions for the Support of a Family, would, by the Help of so reasonable an Encouragement, educate their Sons to this Way; and as these Bursaries would then be of great Value, and few in Number, none but Men of Weight and Interest in the Country could hope to procure them.

SOMETHING of this Kind could scarce fail of having the Effect to circumscribe the Candidates for Clergymen to a just Number; and these would, in all Probability, be Men of an higher Character than some of them bear at present: And, as none of our Livings are near so low as many in *England* are, Clergymen, thus qualified, would be well able to support the Dignity of the Office.

THUS it is evident, that every Profession, and every Trade (except the Linnen) is, and is very liable to be overstocked in Numbers; but the Linnen Trade, if duly improven, is sufficient to employ all our supernumerary Hands, and can never be overstocked.

PERSONS of great Stocks, if so far bred to the Linnen Manufacture, as to know perfectly the Quality of Linnen Yarn, and all the Faults and Defects, as well as the Goodness of Linnen Cloth, may employ a Stock to any Extent, either in buying up of Yarn, and keeping Looms, constantly employed, to weave Linnen Cloth, as the rich Weavers of *Norwich* do in their Goods; or in buying up of Cloth when made, and export it themselves, or sell it to others for Exportation. These may, besides their Warehouse for Wholesale, also keep a Retail Shop, for cutting of Goods for home Consumption, since one or two Servants might take care of both. On the other hand, Persons of no Stocks, if bred to be Linnen-weavers, and are good Workmen, will always get their Bread, and live comfortably by their Labour, and never be put to the Necessity of going abroad to seek their Livelihood elsewhere.

LINNEN is a Commodity of universal Use, from the Prince to the meanest Subject; and a Commodity that cannot possibly be supplanted by any thing else near so commodious, and agreeable for those Uses to which it is applied. The Use of *Indian* Cotton Cloth has been often attempted for Shirting, but to no Purpose; and Muslins for Womens Headcloths and Ruffles, &c.

in place of Cambrick, but without Success. Some indeed ascribe this to a Fondness of the *English* Nation for *French* Fashions; a Conceit that is, in many Instances, most pernicious to this Island; and which ought, by all possible Means, to be discouraged: But there is plainly a Substance and Firmness in Cambrick, which gives it a Preference to Muslins, for several Uses. And now that a small Colony of good Cambrick Weavers are settled, and carrying on that Manufacture to very good Purpose among ourselves; we have great Reason to hope, that in a few Years we shall be able to furnish a great Part of our own Consumption with that Commodity.

THE Linnen Trade of *Europe* is at this Time in the Hands of the *Russians*, *Germans*, *Swiss*, *Flemings*, *Hollanders*, and *French*; and we cannot fail of obtaining all manner of national Encouragement to promote the Manufacture of home made Linnen, in Preference to those Foreigners, for the Reasons before observed.

A NATION may be drained of its Wealth, and undone by foreign Trade, if it takes more Goods from other Nations for home Consumption than it sends out, and pays Balances in Gold and Silver: And therefore every wise and prudent Administration will watch

watch carefully over those Branches of Business where the Balance is against them, and encourage those Branches of Trade where the Balance is on their Side.

THE Balance of Trade betwixt *England* and all those foreign Linnen Countries, is now against *England*; and by Reason of the high Duties imposed by them upon *English* woollen Goods, and other Incumbrances put on the Importation and Sale of them (which in some of those Parts is near equal to a Prohibition) the Balance of Trade is daily growing in their Favours, because we nevertheless take from them the same Quantities of Linnen. It is high time to look into the State of our Trade to the North; for it is most certainly in our own Power, by the Assistance of our Fellow-Subjects in our Settlements in *America*, and by the Industry of our own People at home (if both were properly employed) to bring the Balance of Trade with all those Countries on our Side; not only those Linnen Countries, but also with those who serve us with the bulky Trade and naval Stores.

OUR Northern Settlements abound with Timber of all Sorts. The Planters there are already in the Practice of making Tar and Pitch of an exceeding good Quality; and if they were put in a Way to cut down

and dress their Timber for Exportation, to bring it to their Ports and navigable Rivers, to be there lying in large Parcels, that Ships might always find their Cargoes ready without Loss of Time; and if the Boughs of their Trees were made into Charcoal, and Bloomeries erected for smelting of Iron from the Ore and Stone (of which they have great Quantities in several Parts) into Pig Iron, we might in Time be served from thence with those Commodities at easier Rates than we can purchase them from *Norway, Sweden, and Denmark.*

OUR Merchants might build in *New-England*, large Hag Boats and Fly Boats, from 3 to 600 Tons, for the bulky Trade; which being under-rigged and navigated by few Hands, sail upon low Freights. If some Alterations were made in the present Laws relating to the Plantation Trade, all the Timber Trade of our Northern Colonies might, by these Ships, be also carried directly to the Ports of *Spain* and *Portugal*, and other Parts of the *Mediterranean*, as high up as *Leghorn*, and from thence to bring their Returns directly to *Britain*, where they will always find a Market for them, and then take in a Cargo of our manufactured Goods, for the Plantation Consumption. The Advantages of such a Trade to our own Subjects, both at home

home and in the Plantations, are very obvious.

THE Soil of many Parts of *Virginia* and *Maryland* is exceeding rich, and fit for raising of Hemp and Flax. The same Hands which hough and dress their Tobacco Grounds, and cut and cure their Plants, may be employed all the Winter in breaking and dressing Hemp and Flax. These Commodities being imported rough, may be manufactured at home, into Cordage, Sailduck and Linnen of several Sorts, and will serve so far to lessen our Demands, from *Russia* and *Germany*, of these Goods. Great Quantities of Hemp and Flax may also be raised in *Pennsylvania*, *North Carolina*, and in several other of our own Plantations; and all so near navigable Rivers, that by saving the Expence of a long Carriage by Land, to which these Commodities are liable in *Muscovy*, they may be imported cheaper than they can be had from thence, and, possibly too, of a better Quality.

THE white Mulberry, and other Mulberry Trees, are to be found in great Plenty in these Provinces of *Virginia*, *Maryland*, *Pennsylvania*, and *North Carolina*; but especially in *South Carolina*, and our new Settlement of *Georgia*, and grow in all those Parts exceedingly well and soon, when planted.

The

The Situation of those Settlements, with respect to Latitude, and their Vicinity to the Sea, differs little from the coasting Provinces of *Ghina, India, Persia, Coast of Turkey, Sicily, Italy, Provence, Languedoc*, and coasting Provinces in the South of *Spain*, where the best Silk is produced. It is observed, that very few Places are agreeable to the Silk Worm, and from the Experiments already made, no Part of the World exceed these Colonies of ours for this Purpose: No Silk is clearer, more glossy, of a better Body, nor fitter to answer the Use of fine thrown Silk (which we have now from *Italy*) than the small Quantities of Silk that have been imported from thence. It is of as good a Quality as the best Silk of *Piedmont*, which yields so great a Revenue to the Duke of *Savoy*, chiefly at our Expence.

THE Improvement of this most important Branch of Business is of great Moment to the Trade of this Nation, and may be easily done by supplying the Planters in those Parts with small Quantities of Wormseed, of the best Breed, at first, and they will soon multiply and increase it themselves; to send them skilled Persons to direct them in the Way of bringing out the Worm, and teach their Servants and Children to gather the Mulberry Leaves, to attend and feed the Worms, and to supply them with Bushes
at

at the proper Time, when they begin to work out the Silk.

ONE skilled Person, with the Help of one Child, and a proper Machine, may reel from the Cocone or Silk Bag, in which the Worm is, when thrown into scalding Water, near one Pound of Silk in a Day ; so that in these Countries, that abound with Provisions of all Sorts, and where Mulberry Trees grow in so great Plenty, Silk may be had cheaper than in any other Part of the Universe.

SEVERAL Parts of those Colonies lye in the Latitude of *Egypt*, and as their Soil, in some Places, is equally fine and rich with the Soil of *Egypt*, where the finest Flax in the World is produced, and the Season for preparing of Ground and sowing of Lintseed is over, before the Mulberry sets out ; and the Time of reeling of the Silk from the Worm Bag, past before the Flax is fully ripe ; the same Hands that are employed in making the Silk, may be also employed in pulling and stripping of the Seed from the Flax, and in watering and grasing it*, and the breaking and dressing the Flax will keep

* The Dews in those Parts are exceeding rich, and when the Flax is lying on the Grass, it is thereby brought to an excellent Colour without impairing its Strength in the least.

them

them in work until the sowing Season returns. By these Means we may be furnished with Flax of a finer Quality than any that grows in *Europe*, even preferable to that which is raised about St. *Amand*, at a great Charge, for Yarn to make their finest Cambricks, Thread and Lace.

HERE is a fine Field of Business to enrich our Planters, and to keep all their Hands constantly employed in the most profitable Manner: And if their Silk is sent home raw, and their Hemp and Flax rough, and all our spare and idle Hands at home employed in working up those Materials into manufactured Goods; since all those Subjects of Manufacture may be had from our own Plantations, of a better Quality, and at easier Rates than they can be imported from foreign Parts, we may, in Time, vie with the *Hollanders* and *Flemings*, in fine Linnens, Cambricks, Thread and Lace, and with our great and only dangerous Rivals, the *French*, in the Silk Manufacture.

THE Silk Manufacture is already brought to a great Perfection in *England*; and if, in the mean Time, before sufficient Quantities of raw Silk can be had from our own Plantations, the Importation of Silk from *China* was put on the same Footing with the Silk imported from *Italy*, *Sicily*, and South of *Spain*,

Spain, and a few more throwing Mills, after the Manner of that One at *Derby*, erected in different Parts of *England*, by publick Encouragement, our Silk Trade might soon be brought to a very great Bearing.

To prohibit the Use of foreign made Silks may be attended with Inconveniencies ; but if we followed the same Methods that are practised by other Nations, for encouraging our own home Manufacture, *i. e.* to lay a high Duty on foreign made Silk Goods, and subject them to the same Check that is here already proposed, with regard to foreign Linnen, to prevent the clandestine Importation of them, without Payment of Duty, it would prove a mighty Encouragement to our own Silk Trade.

FOREIGN Colonies are a great Benefit to a Nation, especially in Countries where Commodities may be raised as a Subject for foreign Commerce, that cannot be had at home ; and Materials for home Manufacture at easier Rates than they can be raised at home, or purchased from foreign Parts : But great Care must be taken to encourage them to employ all their Hands in their own Trade, and to prevent their making of any manufactured Goods of their own ; for that would be to drain us of our People, and our Wealth, instead of increasing it. The only
Way

Way to prevent this, is to find them Business enough in their own Way, to enable them to purchase our Manufactures.

CLOATHING they must have ; and if they are, through Poverty and Want of Business, reduced to the Necessity to set up Manufactures of their own, no penal Laws will be sufficient to restrain them from going on ; but this may be easily prevented, if we find them Business enough in another Way ; and that they find a greater Profit in furnishing us with their Product, and in buying from us our Manufactures, than they could have in making these Goods themselves.

WE are told, that the *Indigo* Plant grows very well in *Carolina* and *Georgia*, and wants only to be rightly improven, to be made as well there as in our Sugar Islands ; that the Species of the prickly Pear, on which the small Insect breeds, whereof *Cochineal* is made, grows also commonly there ; that both *Bohea* and green *Tea* have been also raised there, very good of their Kinds ; and that *Olive* Trees grow and thrive exceeding well. Their Rice is also the best of any. *

These

* In *South Carolina* they are at a great Loss for want of Milns to dress their Rice, such as our Milns in this Country are ; where we manufacture our Pot and Pearle Barley :

These Settlements are also finely situated for carrying on the Fur and Skin Trade with the neighbouring *Indian* Nations. Here are several fine Branches of Business for employing and increasing the Numbers of our Planters in those Parts.

MANY great and just Complaints are made of the Decay of our Sugar Trade, while the *French* are advancing in it. This Branch of Trade has brought in much Wealth to this Nation, and deserves well to be cherished and encouraged. Many are of Opinion, " That this is chiefly owing to
 " the extravagant, riotous and expensive
 " Way of living of our Planters in those
 " Islands; and to the Industry and Frugality of the *French* Colonies in those Parts,
 " which were planted with poor and industrious People; that as the *French* Planters grow rich, Luxury and Expence will
 " also creep in among them; and the best
 " Way to retrieve our Affairs, is by a more
 " exact Oeconomy and Frugality in our
 " Planters in their Way of Living." Whatever be in this, the Trade might be in some

ley: This deserves the Consideration of the Publick, to encourage an ingenious Milnwright to go over and settle there, to furnish them with such Milns; whereby the great Expence they are now at in dressing their Rice by the Hand would be saved, and their Slaves employed in other Business that would yield them greater Profit, such as dressing of fine Flax

Measure

Measure relieved, if the Importation, Sale, and Consumption of their Rum was more encouraged, as well as the Consumption and Exportation of our own home-made Spirits, and the Use of *French* Brandies effectually checked and discouraged.

THE Petition that was presented to the House of Commons, in the End of the last Session of Parliament, by the Justices of the Peace of the Shire of *Lanerk*, seems to point at a Remedy to cure this pernicious Evil, *viz.* "That all seized Brandies should be either "staved or exported; for, under the Cover "of seized Brandy, great Quantities, clandestinely run, are sold." When this comes to be considered in Parliament, no doubt, this, or some other Method yet more effectual, will be fallen on, to check this growing Mischief; for *French* Brandies are every where run in upon us, from the Land's End in *Cornwal*, to *Dunsby-head* in *Cathness*, and from the Isle of *Man*, on all the Western Coast.

THE surest Way then to make the Plantations useful, and to be of that great Benefit and Advantage to us which they might and ought to be; is to put the Trade, between us and them, on such a Footing, that it may be equally profitable and beneficial to both. If all their Hands are employed in raising of
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the Sugar Cane, and making of raw Sugars, in making of *Indigo* and *Cochineal*, and making of raw Silk, in raising and dressing of fine Flax and Hemp, raising and curing of Tobaccos, and making of Pot-Ashes, in cutting down and trimming, for Exportation, their Timber and other Lumber, such as Pipe-staves, Clap-board, Mahogany Plank, &c. in making of Pitch and Tar, making of Charcoal, and smelting of Iron from the Ore and Rock, into Pig-Iron; in building of large Ships for, and by Commission from us, and in catching and curing of Fish on the Coast of *New England*, &c. and the Banks of *Newfoundland*. If we take from them all those Commodities, all their Poor, Slaves, Servants, idle and spare Hands may be always profitably employed, and the Planters themselves enriched and enabled to purchase from us our Manufactures for wearing Apparel to Men and Women, and Furniture of all Sorts, our Ironmonger and Cutlery Ware of all Sorts, our Toy Ware, and every other Kind of home Manufacture they want.

ON the other Hand, if the Enumeration Act was in Part repealed, and some Alterations made in the Laws for regulating the Plantation Trade, our Navigation might be greatly increased by it. Their Materials for home Manufacture ought to be imported di-

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rectly

rectly to *Britain*, and our Merchants might complete these Cargoes, with so much of the bulky Trade, Tobaccos and Sugars, &c. as they should find a Demand for, to answer the home Consumption, and the Remainder they might carry directly to any foreign Market, where they could draw the highest Price for them, and be obliged, under the severest Penalties, to return with the Proceeds of these Cargoes from the Plantations to *Britain*, and from thence they may send back to the Plantations our own Manufactures, and such other foreign Goods as may be there wanted. All that is incumbent on us, is to be at the Trouble, and a small Expence in the Beginning, to put our Poor, and all our idle and spare Hands to Work, and by a rigorous and steady Execution of proper Laws and Rules of Police, to keep them constantly employed, that they may be no longer a Burden upon the Industrious, and so great a Loss to the Publick. These Materials for home Manufacture from the Plantations will be a constant Fund to keep us at work; and we shall always find a very great Vent for our Manufactures in the Plantations.

THIS would effectually secure the Dependence of our Plantations on us, when they are thus closely united to us, by so strong a Tie as their Interest, and their Friendship and Affection for their Mother Country,

Country, by this profitable Intercourse cherished and increased, when we thus work, as it were, to one another's Hands, and mutually support and enrich each the other; for where-ever Obligations are recipocal, the Consequences must be so also.

WE can now serve the Plantations with all the manufacture Goods they use, except Linnen; and the present Situation of our Trade with the foreign Linnen Countries, calls loudly upon us to improve and extend the Manufacture of home-made Linnen.

EVERY County, and almost every Town in *England*, is supported, and their Poor employed by some one particular Branch of Business. This contributes greatly to bring every Article of Manufacture to Perfection, to increase the Inland Commerce, and the Dependence of one Part of the Country on another, and to advance the common Interest and Wealth of the Whole. The Coal Trade is the chief Business of *Northumberland*, *Cumberland*, and *Westmorland*; and as this employs their Men only, the Linnen Trade might also be set on foot in those Parts.

AT *Darlington* some Linnen is made for Inland Sale; but it lies too near to *Leeds*, and the other Cloth-making Towns of *York-*

shire. Many Inconveniencies attend the interfering of Manufactures: If the same Hands come to be employed in Linnen and Woollen, or in any Part of both, both must suffer, and be in Danger of falling into Discredit, and be thereby lost and ruined: Therefore great Care should be had to prevent all such Interfering.

IN *Lancashire* the Linnen Trade may be safely carried on, because it interferes not with the Cotton; and that the Warp of all their Fustians, and several other Cotton Goods, is made of Linnen-Yarn.

LINNEN is our Staple, &c. but it has been woefully neglected. We are not however in so bad a Situation, with regard to this Trade, as the *French* were in the Reign of King *Henry IV.* or the *Irish* at the Revolution, (where, by the Force of publick Encouragement, it has come to a great Length) we have it not to begin, we want only to improve and extend it.

THE Linnen Manufacture may be brought to as great an Extent in Value, as any other Business now carried on in *Britain*, except the Woollen; it may employ near as many Hands as the Woollen does. And the Linnen Trade of the North is of as great Consequence to the Nation in general, as the
Woollen

Woollen in the South ; and equally deserves the same Care, Countenance and Encouragement from the Publick.

THE Parliament has, from Time to Time, upon proper Application, past Acts, and given suitable Encouragement for the advancing and preventing the Decay of the Manufactures of Wool, Silk, Cotton, Mohair, &c. all which have been attended with exceeding good Effects ; they preserve and cherish a Spirit of Industry in the Nation, and an honest and generous Concern for the publick Good. Nothing cures and allays Party Rage and Frenzy more, or more effectually defeats the disguised Projects of self-designing Faction, than the tender Care and Concern of the Publick to encourage the Trade and Manufactures of the Nation, to find out Work for the Poor, and to point out to those that are idle a profitable Way to employ themselves agreeably.

THE Act of Parliament made in the Year 1727. for regulating our Linnen Manufacture, and the small Funds then appropriated by Parliament for its Encouragement, have done us infinite Good in many Respects : Our Linnen Trade is in some Measure already retrieved, and improving beyond our Expectation ; we have now conquered our greatest Difficulty (and to this parliamentary En-

couragement we owe it) *viz.* that we have discovered the Defects, Faults and Imperfections this Manufacture labours under, and the Ways and Means to cure, correct and amend them. We still want the Assistance of the Publick to cherish and nurse up to Perfection this valuable Trade, until it be brought to a full Extent, which shall be the Subject of the next Part of this Discourse.





THE
Interest of SCOTLAND
CONSIDERED, &c.

PART III.

—— Industry! rough Power!
*Whom Labour still attends, and Sweat, and Pain;
Let the kind Source of every gentle Art,
And all the soft Civility of Life:
Raiser of human kind! by Nature cast,
Naked,——*

—— By Industry taught,
*How, by the finest Art, the native Robe,
To weave; how, white as hyperborean Snow,
To form the lucid Lawn;——*

THOMSON'S *Seasons*.



BEFORE the Revolution we
served *Ireland* with great Quan-
tities of Linnen, but since that
Period, while our Linnen Trade
was neglected (as before ob-
served) and decaying, they have introduced
M 4 the

the Manufacture of Linnen, and brought it so great a Length (by Encouragement from the Publick) that although they do not make so great Quantities as we do, because they deal little in the low priced Goods, yet they not only serve themselves, but also export to *England*, Linnen to a much greater Value than we do. Is not this great Encouragement to us? If the *Irish*, who had every Part of the Trade to learn from Foreigners, have made such a Progress in it; what may not we do, who have had among us, these many Ages, the great Article that requires and employs the greatest Number of Hands, *the Spinning*, which is the chief Support of the Manufacture? All our ordinary Women spin, and spin tolerably well, and from the Example of the Spinning Schools settled by the Trustees, &c. in several Parts, our Spinning is also much improved. But to begin with the first Branch of the Trade, the preparing of Ground, sowing and raising of Flax, &c.

OUR present Way of managing home-grown Flax is so bad, that it were better for our Linnen Manufacture, if we raised none at all; for every Fault, every Failure in the Flax, is an Error in the first Concoction, not to be cured afterwards by any Skill or Labour. Yarn spun of unripe Flax will never make good Cloth, and where it is mixt
with

with other Yarn the Cloth is disliklied. Flax, spoiled or discoloured in the Watering, cannot be brought to that full White required in fine Cloth, unless the Cloth be so much thinned and emptied, that it is good for nothing; and where it is mixt with good Yarn, the Cloth can never be of the same Colour. Unless we are at Pains to reform our Way of managing our Lint, we had better purchase it intirely from the *Baltick*, *Holland* and *Flanders*; but as we have been long in the Practice of raising Flax, we must go on; and if we can be at a little more Trouble, and some small Expence, we shall reap, from the same Ground, a third Part, at least, more Flax than we do at present, and that too 30 *per Cent.* better in its Quality. I shall therefore give a short Account of the Method practised by the *Flanders* Flax-dresser, who was some Time ago brought over by the Trustees, upon publick Encouragement, to teach us their Way of preparing their Ground, sowing of Flax Seed, raising, pulling, watering and dressing their Flax, and compare it with our own.

THE best Soil for fine Flax is the tender and mellow black Mould, or any light Soil mixt with Loam and a little Sand, that will not bind with any sudden Drought. The lower the Ground lies, and the flatter it is, the better, provided it be dry enough to be sown

sown in the proper Season; it should be fallowed, at least, two Winters and a Summer. The first plowing should be as deep as the Soil will admit of, and thereafter plowed with an ebb Furrow so often as the Appearance of Weeds makes it necessary. In *October* or *November* before the Ground is to be sown, (or rather in *October* in the preceding Year, after the first plowing, if they have then Dung enough, because the Summer plowing thereafter destroys the Weeds that rise with the Dung) it ought to be well dunged, and as well dressed at Sowing as Garden Mould; and two Bushels of good Seed * is sufficient to sow one Acre of Ground thus prepared. We sow commonly four Bushels, and sometimes a Hogshead on one Acre, because our Ground is not prepared as it ought to be: The Effect of this is, if our Seed be good, all comes up, and one half of it is under-growth; this unripe Lint is rotten in the watering before the rest is ready, and the whole is spoiled by it.

IN Ground thus prepared the Weeds are so very few, that one Hand will clean as much Lint Ground of Weeds in a Day, as eight can do in our present Way; and this is a considerable Article of Expence saved.

* Two *Linlithgo* Firlots, which is near equal to three Bushels *Winchester* Measure.

WHEN his Flax is fully ripe, and not till then, he pulls it, and if any unripe Stalks appear, he carefully separates them from the rest, and waters them by themselves. When his Lint is pulled, he ties it up in small Bundles or Sheaves no bigger than one can grasp about with his two Hands, and ties them loosely with a few Stalks of itself, a little below the Seed, and then sets them up on End, two and two, like Stooks of Corn, in the Air and Sun, until it be well dried; and then strips the Seed-boll from it, as we do. He then ties two and two of his Sheaves together, the Seed End of the one always to the Root End of the other.

WHERE-EVER he can find flat lying Ground under Level to any running Water, there he digs his Ponds for watering his Lint, so large as the Ground will allow, and near to three Feet in Depth: When his Ponds are filled from the Rivulet, with Water, he puts in his Lint until the Pond is full, but does not sink it. The Reason why he ties the Seed End of one Sheaf to the Root End of the other, is, that the Roots being heavier would sink in the Water, and the Seed End would be intirely out of the Water; but when thus balanced, the Lint being much of the same specifick Gravity with the Water,
it

it is just immerfed, and no more, and never comes near the Ground or the Mud. He turns it in the Water every Day, and, if the Water is very hot, twice in a Day. He tries when it is enough watered, by breaking a few Stalks; and if the Boon breaks freely, and parts eafily with the Flax, then he takes it out, and carries it to a clear running Stream, and wafhes it very well from all its Filth and Naftinefs, and then fpreads it upon Grafs (very thin) as we do. If the Water appear to be very much difcoloured in the Pond before his Lint is fufficiently made, he lets off the Water, wafhes his Lint, and then fills his Pond from the running Brook, and puts it in again until it be enough done. When his first Parcel is laid on the Grafs, he puts another in the fame Pond, and fo continues to water his Lint, fo long as the Season is warm enough. He turns his Lint on the Grafs once a Day, and keeps it on the Grafs fo long as the Dews fall, which gives the Lint a fine Colour, without hurting it, and makes the Yarn spun of it wafh and empty eafily, without wafhing or weakening it, and the Cloth made of it comes foon to a fine Colour, without being thinned in the leaft.

So much of his Lint as he intends for his beft Seed, he builds up in a Stack like Corn,
after

after it is thoroughly win, with the Bolls on it, and strips * it at Sowing-time; and, in the Month of *May* thereafter, puts it into the Water, and follows the same Method with that watered in the *Autumn*. So much of his Lint as remains on his Hand undressed after the Middle of *March*, when the Dews begin to fall, he lays out again upon the Grass for a good Colour, and always takes up his Lint from the Grass in dry Weather, and about Mid-day.

N. B. CARE must be taken in rainy Weather, that the Lint receive no Damage by rotting on the Grass; but gentle Showers are as good as Dew.

OUR present Way, is to sow our Lint on any Ground, which puts us to a great Expence to weed it. We sow it thick, (as we must do in ordinary Ground) whereby one half of it is ripe before the other is ready; and thus the unripe Seed being mixed with the full ripe, spoils the Whole, and the unripe Lint is rotten in the Water, before the other is ready.

IN the West, where the finest Spinning is, the People are rivetted in a most pernicious

* The Lint keeps all the Winter in the Stalk, is for his best Seed, which he takes from the Bolls by beating them with a light Timber Hammer with one of his Hands.

cious Conceit, that unripe Lint makes the finest Flax; and therefore pull all their Lint when the Blossom falls. This Kind of Lint heckles away almost to nothing, and is indeed in Appearance very fine; but then it has no Substance, and the Yarn spun of it is always weak and ouzy; it wastes much in the washing, and Cloth made of it grows as thin as a Cobweb in the Bleaching, before it can be brought to a full Colour.

IN the Country of *Cambray*, &c. where the finest Flax is raised for fine Cambricks, Thread, and Lace, the Ground is fallowed Summer and Winter for three Years successively, and very well dunged; and at sowing it is all strinkled over with human Ordu-
 re taken from their Boghouses where it ferments. This is a very great Expence, including the Want of Profits of the Ground so long; but then, if the Season proves favourable for Lint, they will have of drest Flax upon one Acre, from 800 to 1000 lb. Weight, which is worth in *Holland*, even in good Lint Years, two Shillings *Sterling* per Pound Weight. By reason of the Drought this Spring, it has risen in *Holland*, since the First of *May* 1733. to three Shillings *Sterling* the Pound.

OUR Seasons are too precarious, to risk an Expence of this Kind, for hard blowing
 Winds,

Winds, heavy Rains, or sudden Droughts in the Beginning of Summer, are all dangerous to the Lint Crop: But it imports our Manufacture much, that our present Way of managing our Flax should be reformed, especially now when we make large Parcels of fine Cloth; for it is entirely owing to the Mismanagement of our Flax, that we have any bad Cloth; and every Person, who sows Lint, will find his Account, in practising the *Flemish* Method, in managing of every Part, from the first Plowing to the bringing of the Lint to the first Heckle.—

THE half of our Lint is, in many Places, lost in the watering; whenever it is pulled it is stript of the Bolls, and bound up hard, like Sheaves of Corn, with Bands of itself, and carried to the Water Green, and then thrown into the nearest Pit or large Pool, in any small River or Burn. The Pool is dammed up with Earth and Stones, until the Water swells to make the Hole of a sufficient Depth, and then the Lint is crammed into it, one Sheaf on the Top of another, until it be quite full, and then Sods of Earth and large Stones are laid on the Top of it, to prevent its being carried away by Land Floods, in Case of a Thunder Shower, or sudden Fall of Rain, which happen sometimes in the *Autumn* Season. If no running Water is near, the Lint is put in the same
Way

Way into Moss-water Pits, and standing Pools of stagnate Water. In those Places it lies in this Condition, full of Mud, and its own Slime and Nastiness, for a certain Time, without Regard to the Weather, and is then taken out and set up an End, with the Band pulled up towards the Top, and opened wide at the Bottom to dry; and after all the black Stuff on it is dried in, it is then laid out on the Grass, to little Purpose; for it is by this Management so much spoiled, and the Whole so discoloured, that it can never afterwards be recovered. The *Flemish* Way costs more Trouble and Attendance, and some more Expence than ours does; but then, by their Way, we should have double the Quantity of Lint we now have, and all of it good, at least, 20 *per Cent.* better in its Quality, than our best home-grown Lint is now worth.

THE right Management of our Flax then is of the greatest Importance to the Linnen Manufacture, and we ought, with all possible Expedition (be the Cost what it will) to have the *Flemish* Method introduced, and universally practised over the whole Country, that we may have no more Cloth of any Kind spoiled or dislikied by the Mismanagement of our home-grown Flax. It is therefore most humbly proposed to the honourable Trustees, *First*, That they should enter

ter into a Contract with their present *Flanders* Flax-dresser for Life, on the best Terms they can, that his Residence and Abode here, may be fixt and certain: That he shall teach and instruct so many Persons as he can conveniently oversee, in his Art of raising, &c. and dressing of Flax. If our Country Gentlemen and Farmers, who sow Lint, should not lay hold of this favourable Opportunity, to send in proper Persons, at their own Charge, to be instructed in this Art, which tends so much to their own Profit, and Advantage of the Country, the Trustees must not be surprized at it. It is no new Thing; the People of every Country, as well as ours, are shy in following what they call Innovations, or practising any new Method in Business formerly unknown to them; they chuse rather to tread in the old beaten Tract, were it ever so prejudicial and unprofitable; but as the Good of the Manufacture so much depends upon it, the Country must be brought into it at any Rate. It is therefore also proposed, that an Encouragement should be given out of the Publick Funds, sufficient to entertain so many Persons, as the foreign Flaxdresser can instruct at one Time, free of any Expence to themselves or Masters, until their own Labour, in dressing of Flax, is sufficient to maintain them. That these Persons be constantly employed in dressing of Flax, and do

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carefully

carefully attend and observe their Master in all his Progress of Management, from the first plowing, until the Flax is taken off the Grass to be broken, and drest.

NEXT it is propos'd, that the Trustees should bring over a few more skilful Flaxdressers, and settle one or two of them, on the same Terms, in the West Country, where they are most wanted, and where it is of the greatest Consequence to the Manufacture, that all their Lint be raised, managed and drest in the best Manner; another in *Fife*, one in the *Stormont*, one in *Angus*, and one somewhere in the North, near to *Strathbogie*.

AN attentive and diligent Person, who is kept close at the dressing of Flax, and carefully observes every Part of the *Flanders* Method of Management, may be supposed to be fully instructed in the Art in the Space of eighteen Months; and then these may go home and be employed, not only in raising, managing, and dressing of Flax, but also in instructing others in this Art. The Country will soon reap the Benefit of this Improvement, which must be of great Advantage to us, when all our home-grown Flax is as good in its Quality, as that which comes from abroad, which brings in so much Money to those Countries where it is now produced.

THE Trustees have been at a good deal of Expence, to bring to Perfection a Machine for dressing of Flax by Water, and have at last succeeded in it; and this will in Time prove a great Benefit, and Saving to the Country, on this Branch of the Linnen Trade. The best Flaxdresser, when he does his utmost, cannot finish of the best Lint (for bad and unripe Lint, or Lint not fully watered, or spoiled in the watering, will not bear the Expence of dressing, and is indeed not worth dressing, nor ought it to be drest) above 12 Pound-weight in a Day; and the Lint Mill will dress, at the Rate of every Hand employed in it, 16 Pounds in a Day. The cheapest that good Lint can be drest by the Hand, is 32 Pence the long Stone, and it is drest at the Mill for two Shillings the Stone. A Farmer, who is in the Practice of Summer-fallowing his Ground, cannot do a Thing more for his Advantage, than to send in an able-bodied young Man to be bred a Flaxdresser with the Foreigner, and to sow annually an Acre or more of his richest fallow Ground with Lint, to keep this Servant constantly employed in managing and dressing it; * and

* The Lint that was produced from one Acre of Ground belonging to the *Flanders* Flaxdresser, in the last Year 1732, was estimated at 40 *l.* Value, and allowing him 20 *l.* for his Year's Labour in dressing it, there is still great Profit to be made of the Ground, when the Season is favourable.

if his Farm lies within a few Miles of a Lint Mill, he may raise as much Flax as can be dressed by this Servant, and the Help of the Mill, and send it, from Time to Time, to the Market in small Parcels for Sale, so soon as it is ready for the first Heckle.

N. B. THERE must be at every Mill, besides the Boys that attend the breaking and scutching of the Mill, at least, two or three skilful Flaxdressers to finish the Flax by the Hand, and to pull and draw it, in which they are careful never to put the Root and Seed Ends together, as we do through Inadvertency, but keep it always carefully in the same Way it grew, to the very last Operation, whether it be heckled or dressed for spinning by Brushes, as the fine Lint is; and in spinning, the Thread is always drawn from the Root End, and not by the Bucht from the Middle, according to the Practice of some ordinary Spinners.

THE Lint Mill upon the Water of *Eden*, a little above *Cowpar* in *Fife*, belonging to Mr. *Hope* younger, of *Rankeilor*, is brought to the greatest Perfection, and is a complete Pattern to be followed by others who intend to erect Lint Mills, and to follow this useful and beneficial Trade. This Gentleman has also begun another Branch of Business, which

which will prove a great Benefit to the Manufacture, and it is hoped will be no less profitable to himself, *viz.* keeping Heckles, and skilful Hecklers for dressing of Lint for Spinning.

THE Woollen Manufacture of *England* never came to a right bearing, until the Business of the Woolstapler came to be a Trade; and it must fare just so with the Linnen. Here is a fine Branch of Business for any Gentleman who has the Conveniency of Water for erecting a Lint Mill; he may either raise Lint himself, or buy it in the Boon from others, and dress it by his Mill for the Heckle; he may have his Hecklers in a convenient House near to it, for dressing and stapling the Lint by proper Heckles, into fine drest Flax, fine drest Tow, common Tow, Backings, and Breards, for the Service of the Country Spinners.

THIS will greatly increase our Spinning, when every Person may be served with that Staple of Flax or Tow they are most accustomed to spin, and which, by constant Practice, they spin best, and with the greatest Expedition; and when so many Days, that are now mis-spent by our Spinners in heckling of Lint (for bitter bad Hecklers they are) shall be employed in spinning: It is therefore proposed,

THAT the Trustees should give an Encouragement higher than they did before, for erecting a greater Number of Lint Mills, upon this Condition, That the Undertakers shall become bound to fit up and finish their Mills after the Manner, and every Way as perfect and complete, as Mr. *Hope's* Mill on the River of *Eden*; that they build large Shades for preserving the Flax that comes to be drest, from Damage by Rain, while it lies by them undrest; and that they oblige themselves to set up and follow the Trade of a Flaxdresser and Stapler, by heckling of Lint, into all proper Sorts and Staples fit for spinning, to be sold to the Country Spinners in small Parcels, at the common Price of the Country.

THE next Branch of Business in the Linen Trade is the Spinning, which is the chief Support of the Manufacture; and, as this Article requires and employs the greatest Numbers of Hands, great Care should be taken to diffuse and extend it over the whole Country.

THE Spinning Schools, established by the Trustees, &c. on the publick Encouragement, have much improv'd us in fine Spinning, and in making of Thread: But, as Thread can be subjected to no Stamp or
Check,

Check, to ascertain its Sufficiency at a foreign Market, and that our Yarn brings in more Money to the Country, when it is wrought up into Cloth, than when it is made into Thread only; I am humbly of Opinion, that this Article of Thread-making ought to be no further encouraged. So long as we have good Yarn, if more Profit is to be got by Thread than Cloth, enough of Thread will be made, and those who make it well, will always find a Market for it.

THE *French* Spinning School has bred a great many good Spinners of fine Yarn in this City and Neighbourhood; but many of them are Persons of Condition; and when these have gratified their Curiosity of having learned it, and spun as much as will make a Piece of Cambrick, or so, for themselves, they give over the Practice of it, and are of no further Use to the Manufacture. Fine Spinning is a Trade in the West Country; but as their Yarn is made of unripe Lint, and not spun in the *Picardy* Way, although it be as small and fine, and almost as even as the *French* spun Yarn, yet it is weak, and cannot stand in the Loom to be Warp for Cambrick; all that can be now made of it, is Woof for Cambrick; and even then the Cloth where it is, thins much in the bleaching. When the fine Yarn comes in to contend for the Prizes, one can at first View distinguish

stinguish the Yarn spun in this Country, by those taught by the *French*, from that which comes from the West. Their Yarn is fully as fine as ours; but when tried by a magnifying Glass, theirs appears rough and ouzie, and of a bad Colour; whereas, the Yarn spun of the foreign Lint, by the *French* Scholars, appears, through a Glass, smooth and clear, like a Horse-hair Fishing-line, and is of a fine Colour. It is fit for Warp, as well as Woof, and when it is made into fine Cambrick, comes to a fine Colour soon, without thinning the Cloth. If therefore a *French* Spinning Mistress, or some other Person fully instructed by them, and every Way as well qualified and skilful as they are, was settled somewhere about *Glasgow* or *Paisley*, to teach their Spinners the Way of dressing their Flax by Brushes, and to spin in the *French* Way, we should soon have Plenty of fine Yarn to advance the Cambrick Trade; and we should have no Occasion for any other Schools for fine Yarn than these two, one here, and one in the West.

WHEN the Trustees form their next Plan, 'tis humbly submitted, if it will not be a greater Advantage to the Manufacture, to extend the spinning of ordinary Linnen Yarn, that no more high Salaries should be given for Spinning Schools of fine Yarn, nor any other Schools of that Kind continued,
other

other than these two in the *French* Way; that an Encouragement, not exceeding 5 or 10 *l.* a Year should be given to a good ordinary Spinner (in every Town, where spinning of Linnen Yarn is not commonly practised) to keep a large Room for instructing all the Girls in the Place, especially the poorer Sort, who must earn their Bread by their Labour; and that, for the Encouragement of these Girls, and to create an Emulation among them, a Spinning-Wheel should be contended for once a Year, or oftner, to be given to any Girl bred at the School, who spins a certain Quantity of the best Yarn, to be determined in the same Manner with the Prize Money upon the fine Yarn, which ought also to be continued.

THE purging and washing of Yarn is now pretty well understood, since Mr. *Holdin's* Receipts for that Purpose have been dispersed over the Country, and the People, in several Parts, taught by him to practise it: But this ought to be done by the Dealer in Yarn, another Branch of Business of the Linnen Trade, that will prove a great Benefit to the Manufacture, and very beneficial to those who follow it.

ANY Person who understands Yarn, may buy it up in small Parcels from the Spinners, and sort it; and when any Weaver, Housewife,

wife, or Clothmaker, has Occasion for Yarn, they may be served by the Yarn Merchant, with any Quantity they want, all of the same Grist or Staple, Colour and Fineness, washed and emptied, ready to be put in the Loom. Were this Trade more followed, and become universal, we should have no more bad Cloth, nor any Cloth disliked by Bars, Strips, or Pirns, occasioned by putting different Kinds of Yarn, or Yarn spun of different Kinds of Flax, in the same Piece. The next Article of the Manufacture is the Weaving, which wants much to be improved.

OUR Weavers were formerly in no Esteem, and their Business little understood or regarded by any body. They were, and still are very ill appointed for Looms: Their Reeds were bad, and they had no Variety of them, which put them under a kind of Necessity of working different Staples of Cloth in the same Reed, and introduced a bad Practice of working Threes in the Reed, which is now disused.

THERE was not such a Thing as a good Reed to be got in the Country, and those commissioned from abroad were seldom sent them of the same Kind they wanted. That Difficulty is now removed, since the Trustees brought over from *Ireland* a Countryman of
our

our own, an exceeding skilful Reedmaker (whose Father settled in *Ireland* upon the Establishment and Improvement of their Manufacture) the Country may be now served with good Reeds, of all Sorts, at reasonable Rates.

THE Prizes of 2 *l.* 10 *s.* on the finest, 1 *l.* 10 *s.* on the second, and 1 *l.* on the common Staple of Linnen, given annually to the best made Piece of Cloth of these several Kinds, at each Station where a Stamp Master is settled, have done great Service to the Manufacture; and the Reeds, Harness, Shuttles, and Temples, also lately given to the Weavers who happen to work the Pieces of Cloth that gain the Prizes, have improved the Cloth in its Goodness much more. By these the Country Weavers see the Benefit of working with good Tools, and are informed how to be furnished with them. It is therefore, with Submission, proposed to the Trustees, when they form their next Plan, that for the further improving of the Weaving, instead of these Prizes to Housewives in Money, there should be annually given, at each Station where a Stamp Master now is, or where they shall be afterwards settled, a good *Dutch* Loom, made by a skilful Hand, of seasoned Wood, with a fine Reed, Harness, Shuttle, and Temples, as a Prize for the best made and whitened Cloth,

Cloth, of the finest Kind; a Slider Loom made after the *Irish* Manner, with all its Appurtenances, in the same Way, as a Prize to the best made Piece of Cloth of the second Staple; and a well made Loom of the ordinary Sort, completely mounted, in the same Manner, as a Prize for the best made and whitened Piece of Cloth of the common Staple.

THESE Prizes must fall, where they ought, into the Hands of the Weavers, and will contribute greatly to improve us in weaving, in which we have already succeeded beyond our Expectation. These good Looms will discover to the Country, every where, the great Advantage of working with good Tools, and improve the Weavers in the Use of them; and any good Loomwright may, from these Patterns, furnish the Country with Looms of the same Sort; and if the Country were once sufficiently stocked with them, these Prize Looms would so far serve the new entering Weavers, who might purchase them from those who gain the Prizes, if they have any Occasion for them themselves. They would likewise prove a strong Motive to incite the young Tradesmen (who are not the worst Workmen) to improve themselves, and to raise their Reputation for good Masters, by gaining of these Prizes themselves.

THE Funds under the Direction of the Trustees are by far too scanty to answer all the Demands of the Linnen Manufacture, was it to be improv'd with that Expedition, in all its Branches, which the State of the Trade betwixt *England*, and the foreign Linnen Countries, requires, as well as the particular Interest of this Part of the united Kingdom, and the general Good of the Whole. These Prizes, propos'd for the Improvement of the Weaving, amount to three times the Sum that is now given for the Encouragement of that Branch, exclusive of the Reeds, Harness, Shuttles, and Temples; and as the procuring of further Funds from the Publick, may be attended with Difficulties and Delays, however necessary they may be for promoting the common Interest of the Publick; and that the Trustees are authorized by his Majesty's Letters Patents, to vary the Application of the Funds already granted, from Purposes that may appear to be less important and necessary, and not to have answered the End designed by them, to others that from Experience are found to be of greater Importance and Necessity, and to promise greater Success: I shall beg Leave to suggest an Alteration, which, in the Opinion of many skilful Persons, may be safely made, much to the Advantage of the Manufacture.

W H E N

WHEN we applied for the Linnen Act of Parliament, in *Anno* 1727, and for his Majesty's Patent (directing the Application and Distribution of the Funds, then appropriated by Parliament, to the several Uses therein mentioned) we were like so many blind Men groping in the Dark; we knew not where or how to begin to retrieve our Affairs: But the impartial Execution of that Act of Parliament, and the careful and faithful Application of the Funds (small as they are) have opened our Eyes, and made a full Discovery of all our Faults, Failings, and Imperfections; we now see clearly through all the Causes of our Defects, and want only a sufficient Store of proper Remedies, to cure them.

THE Premium of 15 s. upon the Acre of Ground sown with Flax, intended as an Encouragement to increase the Quantity of home-grown Flax, and to improve us in our Method of managing it, has fallen much short of the End proposed. It has been now continued for six Years, and the Quantities of home-grown Flax are nevertheless very little, if at all, increased, and our Method of managing Flax not in the least varied to Advantage, nor the Flax, raised upon this Encouragement any better than the common Flax of the Country.

WE

WE do not want to raise Flax so much, as we want to raise good Flax: It is therefore proposed, that the Trustees should apply to his Majesty, when they form their next Plan, to be empowered to supersede that Encouragement, and that all the Savings on that Head, and the Savings on every other Branch should be applied, in the first Place, as an Encouragement to reform the Country in their Method of raising and managing, &c. their Flax, and to extend and diffuse, over the whole Country, the *Flemish* Method of raising and managing of Flax, already introduced.

THE Improvement of this Branch justly claims the Preference, since we now know for certain, (from Experience) that all our bad Cloth is owing to the Badness of our home-grown Flax, arising from our Mismanagement of it. Were this Method universally understood, and every where practised, we know, from the Experiments already made of it, that all our Flax should be good in its Quality, and have Reason to believe, that the Quantities of home-grown Flax, should be also greatly increased; for we find, from the same Experiments, that those who follow this Method reap great Profits by raising of Flax.*

* Vide p. 143.

WHEN this *Flemish* Method is universally understood, Application may be made for an Act of Parliament to prevent the Management of Flax by any other Way, under proper Penalties ; for heedless Persons, of an indolent and lazy Disposition, will always allow Sloth and Ease to get the better of their Interest, and must be restrained by good Laws from doing Harm to themselves or others.

IF the Savings on the sowing of Acres, &c. and other Purposes, shall appear to be more than is required to bring the Country speedily into this Method (already taken Notice of) of managing our home-grown Flax, the Remainder may be applied towards the further Improvement of the Weaving, or for extending the right Method of bleaching of our Linnen of every Staple, which may perhaps deserve a Preference.

WE have, by the Help of publick Encouragement, introduced and brought to Perfection the Art of bleaching of fine Linnen, as practised in *Holland*. At every publick Field, Quantities of fine Cloth have been brought to as good a Colour as any whitened in *Holland*. We miscarry now and then in several Pieces ; but we now know, that this is not owing to the Want of Skill or Pains
in

in the Bleacher, but to the Badness of the Flax whereof the Cloth is made. We cannot bleach so cheap as the *Hollanders* do, and when the Causes of this are duly weigh'd and considered in Parliament, we shall, no doubt, procure the same Encouragement that this and every other Nation gives to put their own Manufactures, at least, upon an equal Footing with Foreigners, who are their Rivals in the Trade.

THE several Kinds of Pot-Ashes and Sops made at present only in *Holland*, of a particular Kind of Pot-Ash, Olive, and Hempseed-oil, used in bleaching of fine Linnen, are all brought from *Holland*, and are there purchased by their Bleachers, from 60 to 70 *per Cent.* cheaper than they cost our Bleachers here, including the high Duties, Freight and Charges. There is also one Material, the Product of *Poland*, without which fine Cloth cannot be brought to a full Colour; but when we send to *Dantzick* to enquire for it, it is not so much as known, or to be found there, by the same Denomination under which the *Dutch* sell it in *Holland*; and, which is still worse, our *Holland* Factors do not understand the Qualities of these Materials, and are sometimes imposed on, and send them bad of their Kinds, or one Sort instead of another. Butter-Milk is also cheaper in *Holland* than here; but as more

O

of

of our low Grounds are inclosed and turned into Grafs, we may expect to have that Commodity at an easier Rate.

WE must rely on our Members of Parliament to make a proper Application, to have the Duties taken off these foreign Materials used in bleaching of Linnen; or, to encourage the making of them at Home, or in the Plantations, at least that so many of them as are used at publick Bleach Fields, should be exempted from the Payment of Duty; and, to prevent any Abuse in this, the Trustees may be directed to lay before the Commissioners of the Customs, annually, an Account of the Quantities that are wanted for the Service of these Fields; that they should import them, and direct the Delivery of them, at the Sight of a proper Officer of the Revenue, to the Masters of the several Bleach Fields, at the prime Cost. When they give in the Account for the succeeding Year, they should also give in to the Commissioners of the Revenue, an Account of the Quantities of Cloth bleached at the several Fields, the Materials used, and how many remain on Hand unused, &c.

THE Trustees should also send over, at the publick Charge, one of their best Bleachers to *Dantzick*, to find out that *Polish* Material, and to instruct the Factors there in the right

right Knowledge of it, that we may be served with it from thence directly, good of its Kind; and should send the same Person to *Holland*, to teach our Factors there a Way to know the Sufficiency of all the Materials brought from thence.

IF some Care is not taken to relieve our publick Bleach Fields of this heavy Burden they groan under, this valuable Branch of the Trade will run a Risk of being lost, notwithstanding the great Expence it has cost the Publick, and much more to the private Adventurers, who have sunk large Sums in laying out Fields, building of proper Houses, and furnishing them with Coppers, Vats, Tubs, &c. and bringing over annually foreign Servants, at high Wages, to instruct our People in the Way of handling and working the Cloth. Were all the Materials for bleaching to be had here, at as easy Rates as in *Holland*, as Labour is fully as cheap here as in *Holland*, and as our People will, by Experience, improve in their Dexterity and Slight in working, we may reasonably hope to be soon capable of bleaching as cheap as the *Hollanders* do.

WHERE the Linnen Manufacture is so fully established, as with us, it must be carried on in all its Branches, and in every Kind and Staple of Cloth. The *Holland*

Manner of Bleaching is only for fine Goods; for Cloth under three Shillings *per* Yard cannot bear the Expence of it, nor does such Cloth require so high a Colour. We have already one Bleach Field settled at *Ormi-stoun*, where the *Irish* Method of Bleaching is practised, (who use no Milk) and it succeeds very well in whitening of middling Cloth, at such Rates as those Kind of Goods can bear. The Colour given in this Way is sufficient for all our Shirting and Sheeting, from eighteen Pence to three Shillings *per* Yard. Bleach Fields of this Kind ought to be established over the whole Country for our great Staple, of which we make the greatest Quantities, *viz.* from twelve Pence to two Shillings a Yard, which goes mostly to *London* for printing; for it is impossible to prevent the Use of hurtful Materials, so long as any Part of the Bleaching remains in private Hands, where the Law cannot take Effect for want of Proof.

MANY Hundreds of Women misemploy five Months of the Year, in tending the bleaching of a few Pieces of ordinary Linen, on the Banks of every running Brook, or near any large Spring: As these are all good Spinners, this is a great Loss to the Manufacture. Four Men and six Women, by the Means of a Bleach Field well laid out, proper Houses, Utensils and Materials, will
dispatch

dispatch as much Work, and whiten to Purpose more Cloth than sixty of these Women do in their present Way; and were publick Bleach Fields laid out in convenient Places for the Service of the whole Country, we should not only have all our Cloth well whitened, without the Use of any hurtful Material, but also our Spinning greatly increased; for these Women would spin more in the five Summer Months, than they do in the other Seven, when the Days are short, and they must be put to the Expence of Fire and Candle, and have in that Season also several other Kinds of Work to do.

At present the Cloth bleached by every private Hand, differs so much one Piece from another, that scarce one Pack of Goods, of the same Fineness, is to be had of the same Colour; but was all our Cloth whitened in publick Fields, all of the same Staple would be also of the same Colour.

THE Town of *Dumfermling* have lately undertaken to lay out a Bleach Field for their great Staple, Table Linnen; and if they succeed, we have good Ground to hope that others will follow their Example: And the Trustees will, no doubt, give all the Encouragement in their Power (to assist an Person who is willing to set so good a Work on

Foot) that the State of the Funds under their Direction will allow of.

MR. *Holden* has lately undertaken to lay out a very large Bleach Field in the Neighbourhood of *Dundee*, for bleaching so much of their lowest Staple as they are in Use to export white, with Kelp, at such a Rate as those low-priced Goods can bear. If this succeeds, another of the same Kind near to *Aberbrothock*, and one in the Neighbourhood of *Montrose* or *Brechin*, will be sufficient for whitening all the coarse Goods of *Angus*; and, by Degrees, we may have the Bleaching upon a right Footing every where, and all carried on in publick Fields, where the Laws, regulating the Trade of Bleaching, must be duly observed, and the Country intirely freed of the least Apprehension of the Use of any hurtful Material, which will very much advance the Value of our Cloth of every Kind.

THE Manufacture of Cambrick is put upon as good a Footing as it can be. Since the Trustees have given an Encouragement for Apprentices, &c. the foreign Weavers have as many as they can instruct. We want only to bring in the West Country to a right Method of managing their Flax, of dressing it with Brushes, and spinning in the
Picardy

Picardy Way; that we may be furnished with Quantities of fine Yarn for Cambrick Warp, as well as Woof, which they do already very well. It is a Loss to this Manufacture, that no Persons of any great Stock have as yet bound themselves to it. This would prove a beneficial Trade for any Man of Substance, to breed himself a Cambrick-Weaver; he might then buy up his own Yarn, and keep as many Looms at work as his Stock will admit of; or, he might buy up Cambricks green, from the poor Weavers (which no Man but a bred Cambrick Weaver durst venture upon, so difficult is it to know the Value of those Goods, before they are whitened) and bleach and finish them for Sale, upon his own Account.

THE last Article of the Linnen Trade, is the making up, and finishing of Goods for the Market. In this we were absolute Strangers, until two Presses for that Purpose were set up at *Glasgow* by the Help of publick Encouragement; one, after the *Dutch* Manner, for fine plain Linnen, and another hot Press, after the *Manchester* Manner, for coloured Goods, such as Bongals, Checks, and Handkerchiefs, &c. Were the Houses (where these Presses are) enlarged, and more Presses set up in them to answer the Demands of the Dealers, without Loss of Time in waiting while the Presses are full of other

Goods; these would be sufficient to serve the whole West Country, *Glasgow* being their chief Market, and Place for Exportation. If a Set of these Presses were set up in this City, or any where in its Neighbourhood, for making up, and finishing of plain and coloured Goods, which go from hence Coast-wise to London, or are exported from this Place to the Plantations; they would do much to serve all the Manufacture of this Country of the *Lothians*, and the Manufactures of *Fife*, which are sold at this Market.

THIS Kind of Finishing is a great Advantage to all Kinds of Goods, to please the Eye of the Buyer. Some Kinds, especially coloured Goods, and fine Linnen, are advanced in their Value above five *per Cent.* at some Markets, by right Up-making: But Goods intended for printing, sell best in the Water-fold. As those Goods are to undergo another Manufacture, before they are presented in the Market for Sale, those who deal in them chuse to buy them without any Up-making.

WHERE-EVER any Quantities of Linnen Goods are sold for Exportation, there ought to be a common packing Press to make up all their Pales neatly; and Care should be taken, that every Pack consist of Pieces of
Cloth

Cloth all of the same Kind, Price, and Lengths; that the Buyer be not put to the Trouble of opening up, and tossing over the whole Packs in a Warehouse, before he can find a Parcel of the particular Kind of Goods he wants. This will be no Inconveniency to the Exporter, where a whole Cargo is consigned to the same Factor, which is often the Case; for instead of every one sending his own Packs, each Pack mixt with Goods of different Kinds, Lengths and Prices, as they now do (which is much complained of at *London*, both by the Factors and Linnen-drapers) he may advise his Factor, that he has consigned to him, &c. so many Pieces, of such a Length and Price each, in Pack N^o 1. so many in Pack N^o 2. and so on.

THERE ought to be one of those packing Presses at *Perth*, one at *Dundee*, one at *Aberbrothock*, and one at *Montrose*: That at *Edinburgh* may serve for *Dumfermling*, *Kirkcaldy*, *Cowpar*, and other Goods of *Fife*, that are exported, and *Glasgow* for all the West.

THE Security of the Linnen Manufacture depends chiefly upon the rigorous and impartial Execution of the Linnen Act of Parliament, made 1727. and this upon the Diligence and Fidelity of the Stamp Masters and Riding Officers; and Readiness of the Justices

Justices of the Peace, and Magistrates within Burgh, to hear and determine all Complaints speedily, as that excellent Law directs. So long as the Justices and Magistrates continue to do their Duty as they have done; and so long as the Trustees follow the Resolution they at first laid down, and have hitherto steadily pursued, of encouraging their Officers, while they continue diligent and faithful in the Execution of their Trust, and to make the Certainty of their Bread depend upon their own Honesty; and to cashier them without Mercy, when they are convicted of a Fault, the Manufacture is safe, and must ever be so in such Hands.

MR. *Holden's* Machine for examining Cloth, is a severe and a just Trial of the Goodness of Cloth, and discovers, at once, the least Fault in it. As this Machine likewise measures with the greatest Exactness, while the Stamp Master is surveying, the Practice of it will contribute greatly to the Ease of the Stamp Master, and towards his Dispatch in his Business: It is therefore proposed, that the Trustees should either furnish each of their Stamp Masters with one of them, at the publick Charge, or oblige them to purchase one. If any of them have not seen it, they may be instructed in the Use of it by the Riding Officers on their Circuit. The Stamp Masters are at present
rather

rather too few in Number for the Service of the Country ; but the Trustees will, no doubt, take Care to increase their Stations and Number, as the Manufacture extends, which they have formerly done, from Time to Time, as the Circumstances of the Manufacture required, that no Weaver or Cloth-maker may be put to the Inconveniency of carrying his Cloth too far from Home to be inspected and stamp'd.

It is obvious, from what has been said, how necessary these Improvements of the Linnen Manufacture are in all its Branches, and how much it imports this Country, and the common Interest of the united Kingdom of *Great-Britain* in general, to have them brought speedily to Perfection. They are therefore most humbly submitted to the Consideration of those Persons who have it in their Power to make them effectual ; that as they tender the common Good of their Country, which comprehends the particular Good of every Individual in it, they will be at Pains to set on foot, and to bring to Perfection so good a Work.

First, THAT the Justices of the Peace set about the erecting of Country Work-houses for employing of the Poor, and breeding all our spare Hands to some Branch of the Linnen Trade ; and that none, who are
able

able to work, be allowed any longer to be idle.*

Secondly, THAT the Trustees apply the Funds under their Direction, to the best Advantage, to further these Improvements.

Thirdly, THAT the Royal Boroughs, who were at the Trouble and Expence of preparing and procuring the Linnen Act of Parliament, and the Application of these Funds, and who are still at the Expence of the Management of them, should, with our Representatives in Parliament, make the proper Applications for such other Encouragements to the Linnen Manufacture, as depend upon the Legislature; that the same Advantages may be granted to us in this Trade, which this, and every other State, that wisely considers and pursues its own Interest, gives to its own Home Manufactures, in Preference to Foreigners, who carry on, and deal in the same Trade.

* Vide p. 32.



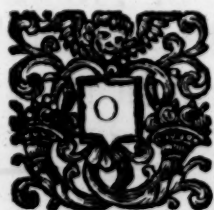


THE
Interest of SCOTLAND
CONSIDERED, &c.

PART IV.

— Nor look on,
Shamefully passive, while Batavian Fleets
Defraud us of the glitt'ring finny Swarms,
That heave our Friths, and crowd upon our Shores;
How all-enlivening Trade to rouse, and wing
The prosp'rous Sail, from ev'ry growing Port,
Unchalleng'd, round the Sea-incircled Globe;
And thus united Britain, Britain make
Intire th' Imperial Mistress of the Deep.

THOMSON'S Seasons.



OUR Situation on an Island, now
that we are happily united under
the same Government, and all
Members of one Society, gives
us many and great Advantages
over other Nations. We have a bold Coast
all round, which frees us from the great
Expence

Expencc that the Inhabitants of flat-coasting Countries are put to, in raising and keeping in Repair Dikes and Bulwarks, to defend their Country from the Overflowings and Encroachments of the Sea.

NATIONS on the Continent are obliged to build Forts, and to fortify Towns at a great Expence; to keep these Fortifications in constant Repair; and to garison them with regular Forces to defend their Frontiers from Invasion, or the Encroachments of bad Neighbours. They are also obliged to keep large Armies in Pay, even in Times of Peace, in Case of a Rupture: But we are, by our Situation, in a great Measure exempted from all those Expences; our Coasts defend us from the Sea, and the Seas defend us from Foreigners. We can neither be suddenly nor easily attacked; for a very small Land Army will take a very great Fleet to transport it.

To our Situation we owe it, that our Army consists but of an Handful of Troops in Comparison of the Armies that smaller States are obliged to keep in constant Pay; that we have no more Forts than are necessary to defend our best Harbours, and navigable Rivers, and a few Places of Arms. We have no fortified Towns, save *Portsmouth*, and *Berwick*, which deserves not the Name.

Name. In Times of Peace we maintain no more regular Forces than are necessary to keep the Peace of a Country, so populous and extensive; to preserve good Order, and to quell and suppress any factious Insurrection, or popular Tumult, that might involve us in Confusion, and endanger our Liberties. We place our Confidence chiefly in our naval Force; and while we are Masters of the Seas that surround us, a powerful Fleet and a moderate Land Army will, in all human Probability, prove a sufficient Security.

So uncertain are the Winds, that a small Fleet may possibly escape ours, and land a few Troops on some of the remote Parts of our Coasts; but it would be very difficult for such a Fleet to secure its Retreat, and a small Land Army, without Hopes of Relief, could not subsist long in an Enemy's Country. No prudent Administration will ever undertake an Enterprize so dangerous, where there is scarce a Chance of succeeding. —

THE Court of *Spain* designed a Descent upon us in 1719: But their Admiral *Castagnetta* seemed to judge better of the Risk he run, than those who concerted the Scheme; he bore hard to Windward with his Men of War, until he lost Company with the Transports, and thereby saved his own and his Master's

Master's Honour at the Expence of the Project. In 1708. the *French*, with a Squadron of light and clean Ships from *Dunkirk*, came upon our Coasts with a small Body of Troops; but our Fleet was in with them, before they could get any of their Men landed.

ANY Nation that has Access to the Sea, may, by Force of Money, build or purchase a Fleet of Ships, but very few Nations have a sufficient Number of good Sailors to man them; and, without these, a Fleet (like a Fort without a Garison to defend it) is of no Use.

NO Nation can have a Navy, where there is not a Fund of Business to breed and employ Seamen, without any Expence to the Publick, but when they are actually employed in the Service of the Publick. A Fleet depends upon Navigation, Navigation upon Trade, and Trade upon Home Manufactures and Fisheries. We have many and various Means to support and increase all these, beyond any Nation in the Universe. Our Plantation Trade (as before observed) is a great Fund for carrying on every one of these Branches of Business.

THE Watermen employed in Wherries, and other small Boats on the River of *Thames*,
and

and the serving of *London* with Firing from *Northumberland*, and the *Firth* of *Forth*, breeds and maintains great Numbers of good Sailors, and these, with the Ships in the River, are always at hand to man the Royal Navy on any sudden Emergency, while the Merchants may soon be furnished with other Sailors from a greater Distance. But,

OUR Coast-fishing is, of all others, the greatest Nursery for Seamen. This Business is carried on, more or less, in every Part upon the Coasts of the whole Island of *Great Britain*, and upon the Coasts of all the Islands that belong to it. Every Man, who has been a few Years in the Practice of going to Sea to fish in an open Boat, makes a good Seaman before the Mast, and most of them do go to Sea, when an Occasion of a good Voyage comes in their Way; and when it is over, they return again unto the Fishing, until such another Opportunity offers.

THE fishing of Herrings, by large Bushes, in deep Water, is a Trade that formerly bred and employed great Numbers of Sailors, and was a very great Fund, both of Navigation and Trade, to the United Provinces. By the Failure of the Herring Markets in the *Baltick*, and other Ports in the North, that Trade is much decayed. Two thousand
P Bushes

Bushes used to be annually employed in it, and now they rarely fit out above Three hundred. Good Herrings give the highest Price in *Flanders*, and the other neighbouring Provinces ; and where it not for those Markets, which are secured to the *Hollanders* by their Situation, this Trade would probably be given up. We attempted it lately upon a Subscription-Stock raised by the Freeman Burgeſſes of the Royal Boroughs, and carried it on for ſome Years at ſo great a Loſs, that the Copartnery were obliged to break, and give it over. This Trade has been carried on ſince by private Adventurers, upon an Encouragement from the Publick, out of the Funds appropriated by Parliament, under the Direction of the Trustees.

THIS Royal Borough Fishery was at the Expence to introduce and inſtruct us to fit out and equip Bushes, to catch, dreſs and cure Herrings after the *Dutch* Manner. We fiſh in the ſame Seas, and the Herrings taken by us are of the Quality with thoſe caught by the *Dutch* ; we dreſs, ſort, and cure our Herrings every whit as well as the *Dutch* do, and draw as high a Price for them at a foreign Market. This Trade is very precarious and caſual, as to the Quantities taken by each Buſh ; but our Buſhes are generally as ſucceſſful that Way as the

Dutch

Dutch are, and the Adventurers are nevertheless as yet Losers.

OUR Loss turns chiefly upon our frequent and expensive Repairs, and renewing of our Nets; and some are of Opinion, that the *Dutch* have in this a great Advantage over us; that they have a Method (still unknown to us) of managing and drying their Nets, which makes them endure much longer in Service than ours do: But this is a Mistake, which shall be taken Notice of in its Place. Others say, their Advantage lies in their Way of fitting out and equipping their Bushes.

IN *Holland* the Copartners in this Trade generally consist of Ship-Carpenters, Rope-makers, Sail-makers, Twine-workers, Net-makers, Coopers, and the Sailors and Fishers themselves. The Sea Provisions and Stores, for curing the Fish, are laid in upon the common Head; but the Wages of the Fishermen and Sailors are paid in Proportion to the Quantities of Herrings taken and cured. If these Adventurers can but save themselves by the Trade, they are severally Gainers, in their own Way of Business, by their Profits upon the Repairs and Furnishings, &c. to those Bushes, whereof they are Sharers; whereas, at present, our Adventurers in this Trade are Merchants, who must build or

P 2

purchase

purchase their Bushes, and all their Fishing Equipage and Stores, and pay their Fishers and Sailors their Wages, by the Month, without Regard to their Success.

THE *Dutch* have, by their Situation, a natural Advantage of the *Flanders* Markets; but these other Advantages are all acquired by a long Experience in the Trade; and if we continue to pursue it, we shall, in Time, and by Degrees, fall upon as frugal Methods of Fitting-out and Management; and carry it on to as great Advantage as they can do. We have many natural Advantages over them; and were these as much improv'd as they might be, we ought certainly to cut them out of this Trade.

THE Herrings swim from the North in deep Water, all along our Coasts to the Southward, and at a great Distance from the Coasts of *Holland*. Our Bushes may run, with their Herrings, from the Seas where they are catch'd, and put them on Shore, and have them repack'd, and shipp'd, ready to sail for the Market, before the *Hollanders* can be moored in their own Harbours.

THIS Trade was introduced and brought to Perfection, in *Holland*, at the Expence of publick Companies; and after they had sunk their Stock, and were, nevertheless, still carrying

carrying on the Trade with Loss, like ours, they broke up, and gave it over; and then the Trade was followed by private Hands, who had been, by these Companies, bred and instructed in the perfect Knowledge of it. These private Adventurers had great Profits from the Beginning, by purchasing from the Companies their Bushes, Fishing Equipage and Stores, far below the Value.

THIS Trade was carried on, for some Ages, by the *Dutch*, in the same Way it was then followed by us, *viz.* in small Bushes from 10 to 20 and 25 great Lasts Burden; but Experience at last taught them, that they could not pursue it with Profit in such small Vessels, by Reason of the great Distance of their Harbours from the Herring Seas. It is now carried on by large Bushes of 50 Lasts Burden and upwards, which are navigated, and the Fishing managed, by fewer Hands, and at a smaller Expence, in Proportion to the Fishing Equipage and Stores these large Vessels carry, than it could be done by the small ones, under the Disadvantage of so long a Run from the Herring Seas to their own Harbours. The few that follow it with us, do it by Bushes of the same Size, and at a greater Expence than the *Dutch* do, neglecting the Advantage of our Situation.

EVERY *Dutch* Bush is, what they call, doubly found in Fishing Equipage, *that is*, each Bush has two complete Sets of Nets: With one of these they put to Sea, and rendezvouze in the Harbour of *Brassfy-sound* in *Zetland*, in the Beginning of *June*, and from thence, agreeable to their Rules, begin their Fishing upon *St. John's Day*. When they have fished 30 or 40 Days, they return home, and put on Shore the Herrings they have then taken*, to be repack'd and drest for the first Markets. They put on Shore their Nets to be repaired and new bark'd, and take on Board their other Set of Nets, and so much more Salt and Cask as they may have Occasion for, and return directly, without Loss of Time, to the Fishing. Those who have Yagers to attend them, &c. continue fishing until their Yagers bring their second Fleet of Nets, and carry home the first. By this Method of managing their Nets, they endure twice as long, without Repairs, as ours do; because we have but one Fleet of Nets to each Bush at a Time, and fish on with these the whole Season, whereby the Twine is so much opened and weakened by being constantly wet; and, in

* The Herrings that are first taken are the best, called *Eriuse* and *Matkeys*, which sell at the highest Price in every Market.

bad Weather, when they cannot fish, are in greater Hazard of rotting in the Hold. It is owing to this, and to this bad Management alone, that we lose so much by the frequent Loss, Renewing and Repairs of our Nets; whereas in this great Article we ought to have the better of the *Dutch*.

IF all our Fishing Equipage and Stores were lodged at *Larwick* on *Brassy-sound*, or at *Peterhead*, our Busses might from thence take on Board one of their Sets of Nets, and Salt and Cask for eight or ten Lasts of Herrings, at most, at one Time; and when they have fished 20 or 30 Days, they might, without Loss of Time, return to either of these Ports, where their Nets and Stores are lodged, and put on Shore their Nets to be dried, repaired, and put again in the Bark-Pits for a few Days. The barking them then, when they are open with the Wet, does them more Service than at first, and makes them stand the Wet much better thereafter, without Danger of rotting. The Herrings then caught may be left on Shore to be repacked and sent to the Markets; and the Buss needs stay no longer than to take in her second Fleet of Nets, and more Salt and Cask, and in one Day's Sail is again at the Fishing. These first caught Herrings, which are generally the best, might supply the Markets of *Ostend*, *Bremen* and *Hamburgh*,

(especially the last, which is but a short Run from *Zetland*) before the *Dutch* could possibly have any Quantities to serve them; and by the Advantage of our Vicinity to so good Harbours of such Safety and easy Access, we might shift our Nets twice in one Fishing Season, which the *Dutch* can do but once; and this would prove a great Saving upon this Head, which is the most expensive Article of the Trade.

see pa: 84

FORMERLY we prosecuted this Trade, for several Ages, with good Success, until the Civil Wars in the Reign of King *Charles the First*, when, as before observed, the wealthy Inhabitants of *Fife* (by whom chiefly it was carried on) were ruined.* If we intend to pursue it to Purpose, we must still do it in the same Way, by improving every natural Advantage of our Situation. It was then managed by small Busses, from 15 to 30 Tuns Burden, with close Decks, and one Mast that struck; upon this Mast one of their Nets lie drying in the Night-time, while they rode by the other, put out in Head to catch Herrings for Bait, when they were at the Cod-fishing, and lay thus snug in the Water, very little exposed to the Violence of the Winds.

IN the Beginning of *March* these Busses went to the Northward and fished Cod on the

* under the Command of the C. of *Crauford*

the Coasts of the *Orkneys*. They salted their Fish in the Hold; and, when the Weather was dry, they put them ashore, and dried them on the Beeches in *Orkney*. They returned in *May* to the *Firth*, and washed the Salt out of their Mud Fish, and dried them on their own Beeches and Stages at home, and then sold them, partly for Home Consumption, and partly for Exportation. About the 8th or 10th of *June* they took in their large Nets, Salt and Cask, and set out to the Fishing of deep Water Herrings, in the same Seas, where the *Dutch* and we now take them. So soon as they had catched as many as their small Holds could conveniently stow, besides their Fishing Equipage and Stores, they run to the Coast, and put these on Shore, and took in a fresh Fleet of Nets, and more Salt and Cask, and fished on till the End of *July*; and then returned home, and shifted their Nets again, and fished a-cross the Opening of the *Firth*, so long as the Fishing Season continued. Here they never failed to fish with Success, and gave certain Intelligence to the open Boats (wherein the same Persons were Sharers) where to lay their Nets for the Herrings, close by the Shore in shallow Water. When this Fishing was over, the same Busses, with a fresh Fleet of Nets each, sailed to the Northward round the Coasts of *Strathnaver*, to what we call the *Lewes* Fishing, and there fished Herrings in the deep Water-Lochs,
upon

upon the West Side of *Sutherland, Ross,* and *Inverness* Shires, till towards *Christmas*, and then returned home, and laid up their Bushes to be dressed and repaired; and those employed in them went to the Fishing upon the Coast in open Boats, until the Month of *March*, and were, by this constant Practice, the most expert Fishers in *Europe*.

IF the Trustees think proper to make an Experiment to introduce the old Method of Fishing, it may be done by extending the *Premium* of 40 s. paid upon each Last of the Vessel's Burden, that continues to fish in deep Water during the Fishing Season, which is now only payable to large Vessels, from 30 to 50 Lasts Burden, to smaller Bushes of 10 Lasts Burden, and upwards. These small Bushes may be built and fitted out at a much less Expence than the great ones; and was the *Premium* extended to them, we have Reason to believe, that Ship Carpenters, Netmakers, Coopers, Fishermen and Sailors, would fit out several, and divide their Profits in the same Manner that they do now in the open Boats that fish Herrings within the *Firths*. Every Bush that agrees with the Trustees to fish upon the Encouragement of the *Premium*, should become bound to have two complete Sets of Nets, and to carry only one of them to Sea at one Time, and to have the other Set of
Nets,

Nets, with spare Cask and Salt, either at *Peterhead* or *Larwick*, in the Option of the the Contractor; and, at both of these Ports, Bark-pits may be made for dressing and repairing the Nets. Were these small Bushes once fitted out on the View of this Encouragement, the Adventurers would find it their Interest to employ them in the Fishing all the Year over, as formerly; and this Trade, thus carried on, would very much increase our Quantities of Fish of all Sorts, both for home Consumption and Exportation, and we should be thereby led in, by Degrees, to extend and carry on the Fishing Trade of every Kind, in a more frugal Way, (under the Favour of so many natural Advantages) than any other Nation possibly can do.

DURING the first Part of the Season for fishing in deep Water, *that is*, from the Middle of *June* to the First of *August*, the Riding Officer, appointed by the Trustees for over-seeing the Curing of Herrings in the *Murray-Firth*, ought, with one Cure Master (by them authorized) at least, to assist him, to reside in *Larwick*, in order to attend the Inspection and Repacking of the first Herrings that come in there, to be made up for the Market, and to take Care, that no Herrings that are not good and sufficiently well cured, be repacked; that the largest, best and fat-
test

test Herrings, that have little or no Milt or Row, be repacked by themselves, and sufficiently served with fresh Salt, daunted and well-oiled, and marked by the Burning-Iron with the Letter M. the common Mark for those Kind of Herrings, by the *Dutch* called *Matkies*; the Herrings with the full-grown Milt and Row, in the same Manner repacked by themselves, and sufficiently dressed and cured, &c. and marked F. for Full Herrings; and the lean and spawn Herrings (if they have any such) in the same Way by themselves, and marked S. for Spawn; that the Riding Officer, &c. for the Firth of *Forth*, with one or two Cure Masters, should, in the same Manner, reside at *Peterhead*, for the same Time, to attend the repacking of the Herrings caught in deep Water, that may be brought in there; and, after Inspection and Dressing, as above, to mark them with the proper Letters for the several Kinds.

THE Coast-fishing of Herrings in shallow Water, when they come up within our Firths in the Spawning Season, is a Trade of very great Importance to the Country, and well deserves to be taken Care of. It is a good Nursery for breeding of Seamen; it employs many Persons on Shore, such as Ship-Carpenters, Coopers, Twine-spinners and Netmakers; and, when it is successful,
the

the Herrings taken and cured are a very considerable Article of our Exportation in foreign Trade, and is so much gained by Industry and Labour. From 6 to 800 Boats have been employed in this Trade in the Firth of *Forth*, and each of those Boats employs eight or nine Men, and eight Nets. Their Manner of Fitting-out, is exceedingly well adapted for the Ease of the Country; the Boats belong partly to the Fishermen, who are employed in catching of white Fish all the Year over; but the greatest Number belong to Ship Carpenters, and other Persons on Shore, who build and equip them on Purpose (as Adventurers) for the Trade. Two or three Fishermen assume six or seven Landmen to make up a Crew for this Fishing, which is called the *Drave*. Every Fisherman has, for the most Part, one Net of his own; but the rest of the Nets are taken in from Netmakers, and other private Persons, as Sharers in Profit and Loss in the Trade. One Person is appointed to keep their Stock-Purse, to lay in and purchase Provisions for the Crew, and to receive the Money for all the Herrings sold. When the Fishing is over, they make up their Accounts, the Money disbursed for their Expence and Provisions, is taken off (what they call the whole Head) and what remains is divided by eight or nine Shares, called *Deals*. The Proprietor of the Boat draws one Deal, every

every Man half a Deal, and every Net half a Deal; and if there happens to be a Landman or two in the Boat, who never were at the Fishing before, these are called Boys, and draw but the quarter of a Deal for their first Year.

WHEN these Landmen have attended this Fishing three or four Seasons, they become very good Seamen, in the Time of War; several of them were in Use to go on Board the King's Ships, where they did their Duty with great Approbation. The Carters, who carry the Herrings from the Boats to the Places where they are cured, and those employed in salting, pinning and dressing the Herrings, are likewise all bred to the Fishing, and go to Sea by Turns.

THE Coast Fishing of Herrings in the *Murray* Firth, commonly employs from five to seven hundred Boats: But their Boats are not so large; each Boat there employs but six or seven Men, and as many Nets. Their Fishing Crews are made up, and their Boats fitted out, much in the same Way with those in the Firth of *Forth*.

THIS Coast Fishing in these two Firths, employs above 3000 bred Fishermen and Sailors about two Months of the Year, and is a Fund for breeding above 7000 Seamen,
that

that earn their Bread by their Labour on Shore, near ten Months of the Year, who are all working Artificers, Day-labourers, and Farmers Servants that live near the Coast, who make it a Condition with their Masters, to be allowed the Drave to themselves: It is likewise a Fund of Business for Ship Carpenters, Coopers, Spinners of Twine, and Netmakers, a great Part of the Year, to repair and build Boats, to make Cask, and make and mend Nets, Buoys, Buoy-Ropes, and other Cordage.

WHEN this Fishing is successful, there is commonly exported from the Firth of *Forth*, from 35,000 to 36,000 Barrels, besides the home Consumption, which is reckoned at 4000 Barrels. The same Quantities were wont to be exported from the *Murray* Firth, but the home Consumption is not so great there as in this Firth. These computed at 12 s. the Barrel, (the common Price paid by the Merchant who exports them) are a very considerable Article in foreign Trade, and may be called so much gained out of the Sea, by our Labour.

THIS Coast Fishing has failed greatly in both those Firths these several Years, which proves a great Loss to the Country, and has much impoverished the Inhabitants on those Coasts, especially in the Coast Boroughs of
Fife,

Fife, by whom this Trade was carried on in this Firth, and the Herrings cured. The Trustees, &c. have employed Part of the publick Funds destined for the Encouragement of the Fishing, as a suitable *Premium* for a certain Number of Boats, to make Searches, during the spawning Season, in the ordinary Traths, or Places where the Herrings used to be taken in great Plenty ; and give likewise small Sums, as Prizes, to the Boat that makes the first Discovery of a Shoal of Herrings being on the Ground in any Trath, to encourage other Boats to search ; but these have been attended with small Success. If the Trustees, &c. shall think fit, in the forming of their next Plan, to extend the *Premium* on the deep Water Fishing to small Bushes, in the Manner already observed ; and if any Numbers of small Bushes are fitted out on that Encouragement, a Way may be then attempted by them to make the Discovery of the Shoals of Herrings coming into our Firths, that promises more Success than any other Method yet tried, *viz.* that so many Bushes as are fitted out on the publick Encouragement, under 25 Tons Burden, may be bound by their Contract, to leave the deep Water Fishing by the 20th of *July*, and from that Time to fish along the Coast at proper Distances from each other, from the *Redhead*, cross St. *Andrew's* Bay within the Cape, to
Fifeness,

Fife-ness, and from thence cross the Firth to *St. Abb's-head*, and thence back again to the Northward by the same Course; and to continue fishing in that Station to the 20th of *September*. When these fall in with a Shole of Herrings, they may keep fishing along with them, until they settle upon the Ground, and then give Intelligence to the open Boats, from the Shore, where to lay their Nets. In the same Manner, so many small Bishes as shall be fitted out from the Firth of *Murray*, of the same Size, may be obliged to begin, at the same Time, to fish along the Coast of *Cathness*, from the *Ord-point* cross the Firth of *Tayn* to *Tarbet-ness*, and from thence cross the *Murray* Firth towards *Frasersburgh*, and thence back to the Northward, &c. to give Intelligence to the small Boats, when a Shole of Herrings takes the Ground in any Trath within that Firth.

THIS Coast-fishing labours under a Burden in the Firth of *Forth*, which, however small it is in Appearance, proves nevertheless a very great Discouragement, that this Trade ought to be reliev'd of, *viz.* the Payment of a Duty of 10 Shillings of Size-money, payable by each Boat that is Size-worthy *. This

* Every Boat that catches 3000 Herrings, during the whole fishing Season, is Size-worthy, and liable in Payment of the Size-duty.

flowed originally from an Exaction of the Crown, of a certain Proportion of the Herrings taken by every Boat, for the Service of the King's Kitchen, when the Advantages of Trade were very little understood, and when this Fishing was, perhaps, only carried on for Home-consumption. It has been since converted into Money, and given in Grants, by the Crown, to private Persons, for a certain Term of Years, by way of Lease or Tack, commonly 19 Years. When the Fishing is successful, this Duty is cheerfully paid; but when there is Loss upon it, which has been their Case too often of late Years, the Fishermen complain of it as a most oppressive Burden. This Duty affects the Adventurers in this Trade, perhaps more in their Imagination, than in Reality; but since those, who, after a bad Fishing, do not fit out again, ascribe their giving over the Trade to the Payment of their Share-money, which they reckon so great a Hardship, it is submitted to the Consideration of the Trustees, if it might not prove an Encouragement to the Inhabitants on the Coast, to follow forth this Business, that seems at present to be decaying, and which is of so great Importance to the Country, if, in the forming of their next Plan to be published, they should be authorized by the King to apply so much of the Funds appropriated for the Encouragement of Fisheries annually,

as

as may be equal to the Sum collected by the present Tacksman of the Crown, on account of this Duty, during the Years to run of his Lease, that all the Fishing-boats, without Regard to their Success, may be intirely freed from the Payment of it.

THE High Admiral has a Depute that attends this Fishing, to keep the Peace, and to preserve good Order amongst them, which is indispensably necessary: This Officer governs them by Laws, or Rules of Fishing concerted in this Manner.

So soon as a certain Number of Boats rendezvous in the Firth for the Ground-drawe, the Masters, by the Admiral's Direction, meet amongst themselves, and chuse, and return a Jury of 15 Persons of their own Number. The Admiral presides amongst them, and lays before them the Drave's Laws of the preceding Year, and these are ratified as the Standard-rules for that Fishing, or altered, as the Circumstances of the Fishing seem to vary. Every Trespas against any of these Rules is punished by a Mulct levied from the Offender by Distress; and all these Fines are paid to the Admiral. Every Boat pays likewise a small Gratuity to the Admiral for his Attendance, and the Expence of his Boat; and of this Duty the Fishermen ought likewise to be relieved, that

Q 2 the
+ This is only 2:6 from each Boat for the
fishing season

the Trade may be free, and intirely disincumbered of every Thing that has the least Appearance of a Discouragement.

THESE Shallow-water Herrings taken in the Firths of *Forth* and *Murray*, are lean, but very firm, and, when well cured, yield a very good Price at all the Markets of *Sweden*; but they answer best in the *Canary* and *Madeira* Islands, and in our Sugar Islands in the *West Indies*, where we might have great Vent for them.

THE Deep-water Herrings, and those taken in *Loch-fine*, are too fat and oily; they soon guild and become rancid, and cannot stand the hot Weather; but the Shallow-water Herrings are not in the least hurt by the hot Weather, and sell to a very good Account, in all the Sugar Plantations.

THE People on the Coasts of both these Firths, are too negligent and careless in the Manner of dressing and curing their Herrings: And since the Trustees have settled a proper Establishment for riding Officers, and a certain Number of Wreck and Curemasters for inspecting the right Curing of Herrings in each of these Firths; these Offices, that are of so much Importance to the Trade, ought by no Means to be *Sinecures*. It is therefore submitted to the Trustees,

Trustees, if it might not conduce much to advance the Value of those Herrings, if the riding Officers and Cure-masters were by them appointed to attend this Fishing at the Places where the Herrings are brought a shore to be cured, to direct the Women, who gut them, to do it with a Knife, in the Manner practised by the Fishermen on board the Bushes; to direct the right Manner of salting and pinning them, and to sort the full from the spawn Herrings, to be pinned in different Fats or Casks, and to take care that they be repacked in separate Casks, and burn-ed with the proper Marks of *F.* and *S.* for Full and Spawn.

THE Herring-fishing in the Firth of *Clyde*, and on the Western Coasts, to the Northward of *Kintyre*, is less precarious than that in the two Firths on the East-Side: The Herrings there are taken in deep Water, and of an exceeding good Quality, no ways inferior to those fished by the Bushes in deep Water; and when they are well cured, give as high a Price at every Market. It begins in *Loch-fine* in the Month of *June*, and continues there, and in the other deep Loches, on the *Argyle* Side, till *September*; then they are taken at *Balantree*, and other Parts on the Coast of *Air*, as low down as *Lochbrian*, on till *November*; but the Herrings on that Side are taken in shal-

low Water, and not so good as those taken in the deep Loches on the other Side. In the Loches to the Northward on the West Coast, and in the Isles of *Sky, Bara, South and North Vist, Harris and Lewes*, they fish on till the End of *December*, and all these Herrings are fat and good.

WHEN this Trade was successful, above 2000 small Boats were employed in it, and each of these Boats employs, some Four, some Five, some Six, some Seven and Eight Men; they are fitted out, much in the same Way with the open Boats for the Drave in the *Forth and Murray Firths*, that is, the Fishermen live by this Fishing during Part of the Summer, Autumn, and a Part of Winter, while their Women, old Men and Boys, take care of their Harvest, and the Fishers earn their Bread by their Labour a shore the rest of the Year; so that this Fishing is a Fund for employing and breeding 12 or 14000 good Seamen.

THIS Coast-fishing, in these West Seas, groans under two heavy Burdens that prove a great Discouragement to it; and to these many impute the Decay of this Trade. The
 * first is the Size-duty, which is there no less than 10 *l. Scots*, or 16 *s. 8 d.* payable by each Boat that wets her Nets to fish in the Seas where the Herrings are commonly taken, whether

** Drave: i.e. Herring fishing in Bays or Lochs or inlets of the sea*

** forbidden by 1. Ann. Sess. 3. C. 2 1705 - 29 Geo. 2 C. 23. 17*

whether she catch any, or no : This Duty is not paid until the Fishing is over, and those who have made a bad Fishing, go home without paying it. So many of those poor Fishermen as live on the Coasts of *Renfrew*, *Air*, *Cowel* or *Kintyre*, where the Sub-tacksman of this Duty can easily put the Law in Execution against them, must pay it, be they ever so needy, or have their Household-furniture distrained, and rought for the Payment of it ; but those who live to the Northward of *Kintyre*, are not so easily to be come at. If these escape the Payment of one Year's Size-duty, they must do it at the Expence of giving over the Trade, which is too often the Case : For if they return to the Fishing of the next Year, they must (before they are allowed to wet their Nets) pay the preceding Year's Size-money, and also the Size-money for the ensuing Year, or find Bail to do it. And to this it is owing, that the Numbers of the Boats, from the North Isles, that use to be employed in this Trade, are so much diminished ; for after a bad Fishing, those who leave it without Payment of their Size-money, very rarely return to the Fishing thereafter.

THE other Burden affecting this Trade, and a shameful Oppression it is, is an Exaction of what they call a Night's Fishing in the Week, taken by all the *Highland* Chiefs,

Chiefs, and Ground Landlords, both on the main Land, and in the Isles, to the Northward of *Kintyre*, from each Boat that puts her Herrings a shore upon their Grounds to be cured. The Exactor of this Toll takes an Account of the Herrings taken by each Boat for every Night of the Week, and, at the Week's End, seizes the Herrings taken in any Night of the Week, that yielded the greatest Quantity. If this Exaction is illegal, the Publick ought to do Justice to the Trade, by prosecuting those who oppress the poor Fishermen, at the publick Expence, and, by proper Examples of Severity, to deliver this beneficial Trade, that is of so great an Importance to the Publick, from so heavy an Oppression, that proves so great a Discouragement to it; and that the poor industrious Fishermen may be liable to no other Duty than the Payment of the Rents of such Houses as they shall use for curing their Herrings in. If Custom has given this barbarous Practice the Countenance of Law, it well deserves the Consideration of the Legislature, to relieve this Trade from so heavy a Burden, by a publick Law.

As for the Size-money, it is submitted to the Consideration of the Trustees, &c. if so much of the Monies appropriated for the Encouragement of Fisheries, were applied towards relieving all the Boats that follow
this

this Trade, from the Payment of this Duty, whether such an Application would not answer the Ends proposed in his Majesty's Letters Patent, and prove so far an effectual and obvious Encouragement to one very considerable Branch of our Fishery.

Loch-fine Herrings are fat, large and firm, and, when well cured, give as high a Price as the Herrings catch'd in deep Water by the Bushes. Herrings are a delicate Fish that spoil very soon by lying, and ought therefore to be cured, so soon as they are brought a shore, with the utmost Expedition. The riding Officer for the Firth of *Clyde*, ought, with the Cure-masters in those Parts, to reside at *Inverary*, and other Parts on *Loch-fine*, where the Herrings are commonly cured, during the whole fishing Season, to teach the right Manner of gutting and bleeding the Herrings with a Knife; to direct the dressing, salting and pinning, and to take care that the fat Herrings be separated from the full, and repacked separately, and properly marked. When this Fishing is over, the riding Officer ought, with the Cure-masters on the other Side, to attend the Fishing there, to superintend the right dressing, curing, repacking, and marking of the Herrings in those Parts.

THE *Lochfine* Herrings, and those caught in the other deep Lochs on the *Argyle* Side, sell very well at *Bremen*, *Hamburg*, *Lubeck*, and all the Ports on the South Side of the *Baltick*, as far up as *Riga* and *Narva*; but those taken on the South Side do best in the *Canary* and *Madeira* Islands, and our Sugar Colonies.

THE *Lewes* Herrings are, for the most Part, bought up by the Merchants from this Firth, who send their own Coopers to superintend the right dressing and curing of them; these Herrings are neither so fat nor so large as the *Lochfine* Herrings are, and although they are also cured with home-made Salt, yet they are so well managed, that they sell for home Consumption, from 18 to 20 s. Sterling *per* Barrel.

So long as so few Herrings are taken in those Seas, they will always give a high Price at the home Markets, and the Dealers will not probably attempt any other. They are taken too late in the Year to reach the *Baltick* Markets, because their Harbours are often frozen up, before our Ships, with those Herrings, could reach them; but was this Trade extended, they might probably sell to Account at the Markets of *Spain* and *Portugal*: For by running directly from the
Lewes

Lewes through *St. George's Channel*, or by the West of *Ireland*, as the Winds offer, they might be always at those Ports before Lent.

THE fishing of Cod in deep Water on the Coasts of *Island*, is a very beneficial Trade, although as yet not much followed. This Business is another Fund (although a small one) for increasing our Navigation. The Fish caught in those Seas are the very best of their Kind; but the Ships never return from this Fishing before the Beginning of *August*, and then it is too late in the Year to wash out the Salt, and to have them sufficiently dried, so as they might be shipped with Safety, without Hazard of spoiling in the Hold, and to be sent in due Time to the *Spanish* and *Portuguese* Markets. Few private Families understand the right Manner of freshening those Mud Fish, which lessens their Price at the home Markets; but if a right bred Fishmonger, of a moderate Stock, who understood the best Method of bleaching and freshening of these Fish, was to set up his Trade in this City, he could not fail to make good Business of it. When these Fish are well managed, they eat as well as powdered Cod, and appear as well to the Eye; and if private Families could always have them rightly prepared, ready for boiling, without further Trouble, this City would,
at

at least, consume two or three Cargoes in a Year. They are so much preferable to dried Fish, that they would, in Time, come to be entirely used in lieu of them ; and then all the Cod and Ling taken upon our Coasts in the Winter and Spring Time, might be dried on our Beeches and Stages, so early in the Summer, as to get the First of the Markets of *Spain, Portugal and Italy*, before any Fish from *Newfoundland, New-England, or Cape Britain*, could reach those Ports. Mud Fish sell very well at *Hamburgh, Bremen, North-coping and Stockholm* ; but our Merchants have not yet tried their *Iseland* Cod at those Markets.

THE Whale Fishing is a very beneficial Trade to the Country ; and was it once thoroughly understood, and frugally carried on, by improving all the natural Advantages of our Situation, it would be no less so to the Adventurers. Our home Consumption of Train Oil for common Soap, making of Shammy, and other Manufacture Goods, is very great ; those who follow this Trade have a great Benefit in the Sale of this Commodity, as well as Whalebone, both which are very wisely subjected to the Payment of an high Duty, when imported from foreign Parts, but free of Duty, when the Whales are taken by our own Ships, and the
Oil,

Oil, *Sperma-ceti*, and Fins, prepared by our own Subjects.

THIS Trade has been carried on for some Time by the *South-Sea* Company, no doubt with Loss, as every new Trade must be in the Beginning. Their Commodores, who conduct the Ships into the Openings amongst the Islands of Snow, where the Fish are taken, and who direct the Fishing; the Harponeers who strike the Fish, and those who peel the Speck or Blubber from the Fish, and cut out the Fin; all these, in the Beginning, must be Foreigners, hired at high Wages, who will be indifferent about our Success in the Trade, and neither so careful nor faithful, as our own Subjects would be. This the private Adventurers of *Glasgow* (who followed this Trade a few Years) found to their Cost. The Company's Ships were fitted out from the River of *Thames*, and their Sailors, and those who assisted in the Fishing, picked up any where on the Coast, although perhaps not so fit for this Service. When the Fishing is over, the Ships return to the River, where the Men are paid off, their Shalloops and Fishing Tackle put on Shore, and the Ships themselves laid up, unemployed until the next Season; whereas, if the Ships from this Fishing were fitted out from *Brassy-Sound* in *Zetland*, this Trade might probably be carried on from thence at a smaller

a smaller Expence, and might turn to a good Account.

THE Inhabitants of the Islands of *Zetland* and of the *Orkneys*, are in Use to fish Cod upon their own Coasts all the Winter over, are inured to the Wet and Cold, and can suffer both without Hazard of Sickness, or of being disabled from following their Business in the worst Weather that happens in *Greenland* during the Fishing. If the Fishermen of those Parts were taught the Use of the Harpoon, and fully instructed in every Part of the Whale Fishing, they might be hired for that Service at a much smaller Expence than our Sailors can be, and much fitter for it.

WHEN the Ships return from the Fishing to *Brassy-Sound*, these Fishermen of those Islands might be paid off, and return to their other Business of Fishing of Cod, Ling and Tusk, upon their own Coast all the Winter. The Shalloops, Harpoons, Lines, and other Fishing-Tackle, with the Fins and Blubber, &c. may be there put on Shore; and all the Ships, save one or two, to carry their Oil and Whalebone to the proper Markets for Sale, might, with their ordinary Crews of Sailors, sail directly from thence, as they should be directed by their Proprietors, to any other Port, to be employed in other Business

This is a very good idea, and should be adopted in the colonies as soon as possible.

ness until the next Fishing Season. The Blubber may be boiled, and the Fins dressed in *Zetland*, and the Oil, *Sperma-ceti*, and Whalebone sent from thence in a Ship or two, left for that Purpose, to *London*, or any other Port, where these Commodities yield the highest Price: And in the Spring following, the Ships, with a few Sailors to navigate them, might return to *Zetland* with Provisions for the Voyage, and there take in their Whale Fishers, Shalloops, Harpoons, Lines and Fishing-Tackle, and proceed from thence, without Loss of Time, to *Greenland*. Were the Inhabitants of those Islands once bred to this Trade, and as expert in it as the *Biscayners*, *Hollanders*, *Hamburghers* and *Bremeners* are, we might carry it on under the Favour of these Advantages of our Situation, to better Account than they can do. It would be then as profitable to the private Adventurers, as it is now beneficial to the Publick, and would prove a considerable Increase of our Navigation, and a good Fund for breeding of hardy Seamen, for the *Russian*, and all the Northern Trade.

THE Coast Fishing of Cod, Ling, Haddock, and other white Fish upon our Coasts, by open Boats all the Year over, excepting the Autumn Season, when the Herrings are caught in shallow Water, is the great and only Fund for breeding and instructing Fishermen

ermen to follow every other Branch of Fishing, and the greatest Support of our Navigation. As such, it deserves well to be taken Care of, to be cherished and encouraged from every Creek. Several Thousands earn their Bread by this Trade, and was it extended, it would prove a Means of Subsistence for many more. The Fish taken contribute greatly to keep down the Price of other Provisions, and serve, in a great Measure, as Food to Tradesmen, Manufacturers, and others of like Condition, that live near the Coast; and, at the same Time, serve to gratify the Luxury of the Rich, who can afford high Sauces and expensive Dressing; and the large Fish, that are salted and dried for Exportation, are a considerable Article of our Trade to foreign Parts.

THE Smuggling Trade, and especially that pernicious Article of *French* Brandy, hurts the Country in many respects, and in none more sensibly, than as it proves a great Discouragement to the Coast Fishing. I shall not speak of this Trade as a criminal Practice in defrauding the Publick of its Revenue, because some (I know) view it in another Light, and look on every Thing that is gained from the Publick in this Way, as a lawful Gain that hurts nobody; whereas no Proposition is more obvious than this, that every Duty imposed on the Subject for the Service

This is a very strong and good
 and in the Fisheries
 not to hurt the Fishery

Service of the Publick, that proves ineffectual, is, and must be made good by some other Fund levied from the Subject; that he who robs or defrauds the Publick of any Part of this Duty, robs every Man, at least every Man of Property, in so far as his Property is affected by such Deficiency; and that every fair and honest Trader is defrauded and hurt in his Dealing, by the Smuggler that sells his Commodity cheaper than he can do. I shall only take notice of it, as it affects the Country in other Respects.

THE Fishermen are employed to carry the counterband Goods from the Ships that import them, in their Boats, to By-creeks on the Coast, when they are dispersed, and conveyed to hiding Places for Sale: They gain more by a Job of this kind in one Night, than they can earn in a laborious and honest Way in a whole Week. Their ill-gotten Purchase they waste in Riot, and never think of going to Sea to fish, so long as one Shilling of it remains unspent; and even then they often run in Debt, in hopes of such another Job to clear their Score. The industrious and honest Fisherman is, by these high *Premiums*, or Bribes, debauched from his lawful Employment, to exchange a comfortable Life of Toil, Health, and Innocence, for Intemperance, Idleness, and Poverty.

THE Effects of this Trade are, 1. Our white Fish are become so rare and dear, that Persons of ordinary Condition are no more able to buy them; whereby Thousands of honest Families are deprived of one very great and comfortable Article in their Way of Living. 2. The Quantities of our dried Fish are much diminished; and so far the Balance of our Trade with those Countries, whither we send them for Sale, is turned against us. 3. We can send no Commodity to *France*, that we can sell there without Loss; and must therefore send out our *Specie* to purchase *French* Brandies, which are consumed at home by Tradesmen, Farmers, and other Persons of like Condition, in Punch, which destroys their Health, instead of wholesome Malt Drink, that would preserve it; and in Drums, in place of Malt Spirits, Sugar Brandy, and Plantation Rum. 4. Tillage is greatly discouraged by it, because our Barley gives no Price: This hurts both the Landlord and Farmer most sensibly, and every Dealer feels it, in his Way of Business, by his backward and bad Payments. There is another bad Effect of this Trade, and a melancholy one it is; that the Fishermen and Labourers, who are employed in it, are corrupted in their Morals; they are taught by their Employers, that a Discovery of their Practice, on any Account, would be ungrateful in them, and a betraying of the Trust

Trust and Confidence they repose in them; and by this false Way of Reasoning, and the Rewards and Gifts they receive (which even blind the Eyes of the Wise) they are misled to make light of an Oath, and to perjure themselves in Trials before the Court of Exchequer, rather than discover the Truth.

THIS Trade looks like an Infatuation; Persons of all Ranks and Conditions are hurt by it, and even the Dealers in it themselves are not Gainers by it at the long Run: They lie at the Mercy of every one they employ, and must pay them what they ask, to prevent a Seizure by their Discovery. Their Profits (great as they appear to be) bear no Proportion to their Risk; for if one Parcel out of four is taken, they are Losers. They are expensive and irregular in their Way of Living, and dare not keep regular and fair Books, nor can ever know the just State of their private Affairs. For one Dealer that fails in a fair and honest Way of Trade, ten of these become bankrupt; and when they break, every one who trusts them, loses all by them, because they have no Effects, but such as are liable to be seized by the Publick; and it is observed, that those who continue to pursue this Trade, are at last ruined and undone by it.

No Law that possibly can be contrived, is of it self sufficient to cure this pernicious Evil: our Coasts are too open and extensive to be guarded, and the Appointments of the inferior Officers of the Customs are too small for them to resist the Temptation of a Bribe. Many are of Opinion, that these are the only Gainers by this Trade; and they, like the Smugglers themselves, and those employed by them, waste these their unlawful Gains in Riot and Intemperance. The Country in general suffers obviously by this Trade, and the personal Interests of every Individual are more or less affected by it. If then the Justices of the Peace would lay down a firm Resolution, and pursue it steadily, to put the Laws rigorously in Execution; and if every Country Gentleman and Farmer could divest himself of Prejudice to discourage this Trade, and not to give it the least Countenance, by allowing these counterband Goods to be lodged in any Places of their Grounds or Out-houses, and would discourage their Servants, and Labourers, who live in their Grounds, from being employed by, or giving any Assistance to the Smugglers; those who deal in it, would find themselves under a Necessity to give it over, and to employ their Stocks in some fair and honest Way of Trade; where, although their Profits were smaller, yet they would deal securely, and by a more regular and frugal Way of Living,
and

and Affiduity in their Business, their Stocks would increase by Degrees, and at the long Run they would find themselves more enriched, than any Man as yet ever was by this unlawful and precarious Trade.

IF the Importation of *French* Brandies was effectually prevented, our Fishermen would become as frugal and industrious as ever, and their laborious and honest Trade, so beneficial to the Country, would be diffused and extended; Fish would become as plentiful as ever, and might be purchased by the Poor at such reasonable and easy Rates as they could afford; our Quantities of dried Fish would be greatly encreased, which would be a great Benefit to Trade; our Consumption of Malt Drink and Malt Spirits would be greater, which would make our Grain rise in its Value, and every Landlord, every Farmer, and every Dealer would reap the Benefit of this; our common People would be restored to their Integrity, and become frugal, honest, and industrious, useful and profitable Members of the Commonwealth. Every Person, of what Station of Life soever he be, who reflects coolly and deliberately on this, must find it his Interest to discourage a Trade that is so hurtful to his Country in every respect; and if every Man was to do his Duty honestly, and pursue the common Interests of his Country, by discouraging

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raging every Practice that hurts it, this Trade must be given up, and the Hands now employed in it, would be employed in fair Dealing, and profitable Labour.

I DESIGNED to have concluded this Discourse with a few Observations upon private Oeconomy; because it is observed, that Luxury is increasing too much amongst us, and that Persons of all Ranks live at a Rate rather too high for their Circumstances, and are too fond of fruitless and expensive Diversions: But, as this Book is already swelled to a greater Length than I at first designed, I shall leave that Task to be performed by better Hands.

THE following Papers, containing the whole Progress of their Management of Flax in *Flanders*, from the Seed to the Spinning-Wheel, came to hand too late to be inserted in their proper Place, and are therefore added by way of Appendix.



A N
APPENDIX.

C O N T A I N I N G

The Manner of Raifing, Weeding,
Pulling, Watering, Graffing, and
Dreffing of

F L A X

Practifed in *Flanders*;

F R O M

The Obfervations of an Expert TRADESMAN,
who was fome Years in that Country,
improving Himfelf in the Knowledge of
this moft material Part of the

LINNEN MANUFACTURE.

THE
MANNER OF
RAISING, WEAVING,
DYEING, AND
FINISHING
LINEN MANUFACTURE.

APPENDIX

CONTAINING

The Manner of Raising, Weaving,
Dyeing, and
Finishing

FLAX

Practised in Flanders;

FROM

The Observations of an Expert Tradesman,
who was some Years in that Country,
improving Himself in the Knowledge of
this most useful Part of the

LINEN MANUFACTURE.



A N

APPENDIX.

Of the Choice of the Soil, and Plowing the Ground.



WHAT a fine, light, and rich Soil they have in *Flanders*, where the following Observations were made, and where the best of Flax grows, is sufficiently known to every body who has but so much as heard of the Country.

THE natural Tenderness and Fineness of the Mould, with the Heat of the Climate there, are Advantages, which nothing but more than ordinary Skill and Labour can make up for us in *Scotland*.

OUR

OUR Grounds in *Scotland* are in general, in Comparison of these in *Flanders*, poor, stiff, and cold; and even the richest, lightest, and warmest we have, are only proper for raising good Flax.

SUPPOSING then Choice is made of such a Soil, and this Ground or Soil is either at present rich, and in good Heart, by previous Dunging or Fallowing, and Tillage; or, though naturally a good Soil, yet now much impoverished and worn out by a Succession of Crops taken from it; observe the following different Directions, according as the first or last of these Suppositions may be the Case of your Ground.

IF your Ground then is at present rich, and in good Heart, and no Crop taken from it since Dunging and Fallowing, let it be your Business, by frequent Tillage, to render your Mould as fine as possible, in order to sow Hemp about the Beginning of *May*. As their Mould in *Flanders* is vastly more light and tender than ours, and consequently sooner and more easily laboured; so their Manner of Tillage can be no sufficient Pattern for our Imitation. But as the great Advantages of strong and frequent Tilling seem to be so fully proved, and
are

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are so strongly recommended by our best Authors upon Husbandry ; so it is again here recommended as absolutely necessary for Flax, which will fully answer the Expence. A Crop of Hemp taken first after Dunging, will be able to stand the Sharpness of the new Dung, will help much to clean the Ground of Weeds, and also contribute still to improve the Fineness of the Mould for sowing of Flax next Season, without any Addition of Manure.

BUT if, on the contrary, your Soil, tho' naturally good, and with all the necessary Advantages of a warm and good Situation, is at present but poor, being in some measure run out and impoverished by a Succession of Crops taken from it since Dunging ; you may still have a Crop of Flax from this Ground, so soon as from the other. What you may have had last upon it, is indifferent ; but after the same is reaped, let your Ground lie till the End of *September*, or Middle of *October*, and then drench or dig it two or three Foot deep, according as your Soil either allows or requires, and at the same time dung it very strongly. Your Business thereafter is, by frequent Tillage, to render the Mould as fine as possible, in order to sow Hemp as above. As to the Situation of the Ground,
the

the warmer, lower, and flatter that it lies, the better; provided it be not too wet, nor any ways exposed to accidental Falls of Water from higher Grounds. When your Crop of Hemp is pulled, your Ground may again lie till the Beginning of Winter, or proper Season for Plowing; which must be again, at least twice or thrice, repeated before sowing your Flax, about the End of *March*, or Beginning of *April*, the following Season. It seems only necessary to add further upon this Head, that if the Soil is tolerably dry, deep, and rich, as above directed, the Ridges cannot be made too broad and flat, nor the Furrows too shallow; neither needs the Plow go so very deep, there being no Danger of such Soil's retaining the Water, so as to scald the Roots of the Flax. But if the Soil is either wet or stiff, all these Circumstances must be varied accordingly: The Ridges must be higher, and not so broad; the Furrows deeper, and the Plow must go deeper, in order to carry off the Water, and prevent the above bad Consequences thereof.

Of the Choice of the Seed, the Quantity and Manner of Sowing.

The Ground being prepared as above, the next Thing to be done is the Sowing,
about

about the Beginning of *April*, after being provided with good Seed. It has been already laid down as a Rule, to sow Hemp before Flax. The best Hemp-Seed is to be had from *Riga* and *Narva*; and betwixt six and seven Pecks is sufficient to sow an Acre. The Hemp must be sown about the Beginning of *May*; and after sowing there needs no further Care be taken about it, till ripe, and fit for pulling. As for Flax-Seed, the best of it is also to be had from *Riga*, and is always used in *Flanders* to their strongest and richest Grounds. There is also another Sort called *Memels*, which they use to their poorer and lighter Grounds. For particular Marks whereby to know good Flax-Seed, take these following. That which is good, is commonly of a brownish yellow Colour, plump and thick, with the Point turning up a little, and the Kernel white and hard. The bad Seed is of a paler Colour, or blackish, and both broader and thinner than the good Seed: The Kernel also is neither so white nor firm as the other. The Proportion of Seed, according to their Way of sowing in *Flanders*, is between nine and ten Pecks to our Acre. The equal sowing of the Seed, however material in it self, can be a Matter of no Difficulty to any Person accustomed with the sowing of other Seeds.

When

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When the Seed is sown, a Thorn-bush drawn by a Horse, with a sufficient Weight upon it, to make the Thorns in some measure enter the Ground, is of considerable Use, as tending not only to cleanse the Ground of any loose Roots or Rubbish that may be lying upon it, but also to cover the sown Seed better and more equally, than the finest Harrow can possibly do. After thus covering the Seed with the Thorn-bush, a Roller is also thought to be of considerable Service to roll the Ground with. This Roller is made of Timber about five Foot long, and fifteen or sixteen Inches diameter, drawn in a Frame either by a Man or a Horse. The Rolling, it's said, prevents the bad Consequences either of scorching Heat, or of cold and bleak Winds, upon the new sown Seed; as also the Birds from picking it up, and makes the Ground cling to it. But 'tis again thought by others, that the Rolling rather does Harm than Good; that it in some measure untills the Ground, and anticipates the subsiding of it, which in strong Land happens too soon of it self. Let every one then judge for himself, and use the Roller, or not, as he shall think most proper; as is also done in *Flanders*, where, though the Roller is very common, and used in most, yet it is not in all Places.

It

It must only be further observed, that the Rolling must never be performed when the Ground is wet; for in this Case both Earth and Seed would cling to the Roller, where-ever it came.

Of Weeding.

THE proper Time for weeding Flax is when three or four Inches above Ground: Then all Weeds, even those that resemble the Flax it self most, can be easily distinguished from it. Some object against the common Practice of pulling up the Weeds by the Roots: For this, say they, very much loosens and abuses the Flax. They therefore prefer the cutting of them as near as possible with a sharp Knife. The Weeders sitting or lying upon the Flax while a weeding, can do it no Harm: But 'tis alledged, that their standing upon it with their Shoes on, does great Damage, by cutting the Flax with the Heels of them. However, to sit or lie upon the Flax while a weeding, and to pull the Weeds up by the Roots, is the common Practice in *Flanders*, and 'tis thought may be safely imitated by us.

Of

Of Pulling.

FLAX, when ripening (of which the Change of the green into a yellow Colour is the first Token or Mark) takes this yellow Colour first below towards the Roots, and so changes its Colour gradually from below towards the Top. As soon as, or rather before, the Tops of Flax have taken on the yellow Colour, the Leaves below begin to fall off, and the under Part where these Leaves stood, has commonly again changed the yellow for a brownish or parched-like Colour. When these Marks are seen upon the Flax, it is full Time to pull it, without waiting for the colouring or hardening of the Bows and Seed, as some, for the Advantage of the Seed, do advise. By allowing Flax to stand too long, it is allowed to become too dry and stubborn; it loses entirely the Sap (a Part of which is absolutely necessary towards the Fermentation in watering) and, through its natural Driness, can never, by all the subsequent Parts of Labour bestowed upon it, be brought to that Softness and Fineness that other Flax, pulled sooner, may. The allowing Flax to grow too ripe, is certainly wrong, and attended with the above bad Consequences; but in avoiding of this, we

we must still be no less cautious of falling into the other no less dangerous Extream of pulling too green. This is reported to be the common, but pernicious Practice of the West Country ; proceeding, no doubt, from the vast Difference they find between the Softness and Fineness of this Flax and other Flax, which, perhaps, they allowed formerly to stand too long. The common Colour of both their Flax and Yarn seems indeed sufficiently to prove this Practice among them ; and, notwithstanding their great Advantage of good Spinning, the subsequent Trials of Washing and Bleaching that their Yarn must undergo, have discovered the Insufficiency of their Flax (proceeding from the above erroneous Management) to all who ever used it.

SOME recommend a very nice Observation in sorting the Flax when pulling ; that is, the pulling the Flax of different Lengths and Degrees of Fineness, each Sort apart by it self, and always afterwards kept apart and wrought separately : For, say they, the coarser Flax is much sooner watered than the fine ; and, should they be pulled and watered promiscuously, the coarse would be rotten before the fine were sufficiently watered. This their Assertion is true, and the Precaution absolutely

S

lutely necessary to be observed, where there is a large Field of Flax, which may differ considerably the Growth of the one Place from that of the other. But in *Flanders*, where their Inclosures are commonly but very small, the Flax of one Inclosure or Field commonly goes together, without any sorting at all. When a Man has pulled as much Flax as he can conveniently hold in his Hand, it is laid upon the Ground; the next Handful at the Side of the first, but at some small Distance; the third across these two; and so on, till he raises a little Heap; still keeping the Handfuls apart, and disengaged from one another, until taken up by another Person, by whom they are bound loosely with a few Straws in the middle, and set up upon end with the Roots downward, ten or twelve of these Handfuls standing together. Thus the Flax may either stand till next Day after pulling, or, if the Riplers are ready, may be carried to them, and ripled directly.

Of Ripling, and saving the Seed.

It has been for some time, and perhaps is yet, a prevailing Notion in this Country, that Flax ought neither to be ripled nor watered the same Season it is pulled: For,
say

say they, " The Seed, while in the Bows,
 " and upon the Stalk, still receives further
 " Nourishment from the Stalk ; and for the
 " watering, the Months of *May* and *June*
 " are much fitter than *September* or *Octo-*
 " *ber.*" But though it should not be de-
 nied, either that the Seed remaining in the
 Bows may be further improved by the Nou-
 rishment it may receive from the Stalk
 after pulling, or that the Months of *May*
 and *June* are fitter for watering in than
September or *October* ; yet it is supposed,
 that the Water being first thoroughly soft-
 ened by the Sun in *May* and *June*, to
 which may also be added *July*, would still
 be fitter for watering in the Month of *Au-*
gust than in *May* or *June*. And in the
 next place, if our Flax is timeously sown,
 we shall not be obliged to water it (though
 done the same Year it is pulled) in *Septem-*
ber or *October* ; for it will certainly be pul-
 led and fit for watering against the middle
 of *August*. It remains only then, whether,
 since we can have no Flax to water in
 the Months of *May* and *June*, of the same
 Year's Growth, Flax pulled in *August* may
 be kept to be watered in *May* or *June* the
 Year following, to the same Advantage to
 the Flax it self, as when watered the same
 Season it is pulled. The *Flemings*, by their
 Answers to this Question when put to
 S 2 them,

them, deny it: They say, that Flax both ripples and waters better when newly pulled, than when kept over a Year: and, answerable to this their Opinion is their constant Practice. The Advantages of Ripling are these: The Bows and Leaves part then with the Stalk much more easily, than when the Flax is become dry and tough, by being kept over a Year. The Ripling, when the Flax is dry, is apt to break and tear the Straw; by which the Water coming in upon the Harle, or Flax it self, may do it much Harm in watering. It is also certain, that Flax watered the same Season it is pulled, is done in less Time, and takes a better Colour, than when kept over a Year. The Method of Ripling is thus: There is first a Piece of Ground marked out, in Largeness according to the Number of Ripling-Combs, or People to be employed in ripling. This Piece of Ground is rolled or trod hard and smooth, and Winnowing-sheets are spread upon it, to receive the Bows from the Ripling-Comb. Upon the Winnowing-sheets is placed a Form or Bank, with a Ripling-Comb, such as the Trustees have had from *Flanders*, fixed in the middle of it. Upon, or near to, the Extremities of the Form, sit two Men with their Legs across the Form, and their Faces towards the Ripling-Comb, and
each

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each other ; and through the Ripling-Comb (being broad enough for both Men to strike their Flax into at once) the Flax is softly drawn, to separate and pull off the Bows, Leaves, and superfluous Branches from the Stalk. After the Flax is ripled, the Bows must be thinly spread on Winnowing-sheets, and thus exposed to the Sun and Air till thoroughly dry, remembering to turn them frequently while a drying. When they are thoroughly dry, carry them to a boarded Floor, and there spread them about three or four Inches thick ; still remembering to turn them once a Week, to prevent heating. There is no Occasion to separate the Seed from the dry and broken Bows before the sowing Season comes on. On the contrary, these very Bows, lying still mixed with the Seed, are of singular Service to it : They prevent the Seed's packing so close together ; they keep it open and loose, whereby the Air can the more freely pass through it, and so prevent its heating. Should any Person find it worth while, a few Years hence, to sow any considerable Quantity of Lint-feed, the ripling, watering, and drying the Seed, at the same Season it is pulled, will perhaps be found a little too quick for him, if he shall not be very well provided with a sufficient Number of Hands, and other

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Conveniencies for his Work, which is attended with abundance of Trouble and Labour. Nay, it is not doubted, that in a few Years Gentlemen will find their Account in sowing greater Quantities of Lintseed, than may at first Sight seem possible for them to manage all in the above Method; and that they will think themselves obliged, upon that Account, to fall upon the Way of stocking and keeping it over a Year; especially if they have the Value of the Seed more in View, than the Goodness of the Lint. Yet it is hoped, that the Disadvantage of the Flax it self, as mentioned above, proceeding from such Management, will prevent its being followed, except in Cases of absolute Necessity.

Of Watering.

ON the Head of Pulling was mentioned the Way of the Flax being carried to the Riplers bound up in Handfuls. The Riplers again untie these Handfuls before ripling. After ripling, the Flax is again made up into larger Sheaves or Bundles, about the Bigness of the Calf of a Man's Leg, each Bundle or Sheaf being commonly tied in three Places; *viz.* in the middle and near to both Ends. These Bandages must be but loosely tied, that the

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the Water may be able to penetrate into all the Parts of the Sheaf, when laid in the Water. The Bundles or Sheaves thus made up, are set up upon the Roots, and exposed to the Sun and Air to dry or stiffen about twenty four Hours, and are then ready for being put in the Water.

THOUGH the skilful Watering is of very great Importance, and one of the nicest and most ticklish Points in the whole Course of the Management of Flax; yet there is not one Point we are less anxious about, or more ignorant of, than of this. All Moss-Waters, that are not perfectly clear and free of Muddiness, Bogs, Peat-holes, Rivers, &c. are destructive to Flax; neither are artificial Ponds, or Holes, Lakes, Ditches, &c. either entirely without, or which have a constant Communication with a River, the fittest for watering in. Take therefore an Account of the Situation of the best Places for watering in *Flanders*, with their particular Advantages; which will at the same time serve to enable any Person to make Choice of a proper Place for his own Use in *Scotland*. First then, the best Places for watering Flax in *Flanders* are situate very near a large River. The Grounds near this River have both common Ditches running from

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them to the Banks of the River, and other particular Ditches, either watering or dividing particular Persons different Properties. In the beginning of Winter they make a Breach in the Bank of the River, allowing it to overflow the adjacent meadow Grounds; by which it also supplies the other Grounds at a greater Distance from it with fresh Water, through the common Communication of the Ditches. This Breach in the Bank of the River is kept open till the Spring, and the River-water having overflowed these Grounds so long a time, has enriched both them and the Ditches, by the Slime and Mud it has rolled along with it. This River-water then, kept in such Ditches, and so softened by being exposed to the Sun and Weather all the Spring and Summer, is the most proper for watering Flax in. The Bottoms of their Ditches are also very foul and slimy; which they reckon improves the Water, and contributes to the softening the Flax. In other Places in *Flanders*, where the Water is not so good, they throw a great many Alder-leaves into their Ditches, or cover their Flax with Alder-branches with the Leaves upon them; which they commonly have in great Plenty growing along the Sides of their Canals. These Alder-leaves, they say, contain a
certain

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certain fat or oily Substance ; which, by lying and rolling in the Water, they communicate to the Water ; and this, add they, contributes much to the softening the Flax, and also gives it a little bluish Tincture, which is the favourite Colour in that Country. But this is only practised in Places where their Soil is poor and light, the Bottoms of their Ditches bare and sandy, and no sufficient Quantity of Mud and Slime in them, to produce the above Effects.

THE Colours that Flax takes on, and the other Effects produced upon it, according to the different Ways of watering it, are very various : For Example ; All Flax watered in Rivers and Lakes, where the Water is colder and harder than that which is kept in Ditches, though it will take on a very clear and white Colour ; yet the Stream and Currency of the Water so frets and tears both Straw and Flax, and at the same time the fermenting Juices either remaining still in the Flax (their natural Operation being impeded by the continual Currency and Coldness of the Water) or these Juices being gradually and entirely washed away, before their being able to cause a general and vigorous Fermentation through the whole of the Flax,

it

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it remains ever afterwards hard and stubborn. Bogs, Moss-water, Peat-holes, &c. tinge Flax so, that it can never be brought to a good Colour thereafter.

THE Situation of the Ditches being mentioned, their Dimensions may be from five to six Foot broad, and from four to five Foot deep. Before the Flax is laid in the Water, as much Mud and Slush from the Bottom of the Ditch as is thought will sink and cover the Flax when put into it, ought to be taken out. This done, the Depth of the Ditch is to be considered, and what Number of Sheaves of Flax may lie above one another; so as neither to rest upon the Ground or Bottom of the Ditch, nor fully to reach the Surface of the Water above. The Flax must, as it were, hang or swim in the Water at an equal Distance from the Bottom and Surface. The Breadth of the Ditch ought also to be considered, and the laying of the Flax ordered so, as to leave no more empty Space than is absolutely necessary for the holding or containing it easily. Then the Sheaves of Flax, bound as above, ought to be laid Sheaf by Sheaf in the Water, the long Way of the Ditch; and so on, till the whole Breadth thereof is taken up or filled: the second Row or Range of Sheaves across the first;
and

and so on, till the whole is finished. When the Pile of Flax is sufficiently high, that is, within two or three Inches of the Surface of the Water, it ought then to be covered with the Mud and Slush formerly taken out from the Bottom of the Ditch; and being thereby entirely covered and sunk under Water, it remains in this manner till sufficiently watered. When the Flax is laid in the Ditch, and covered as above, that Part of the Ditch taken up by the Flax is to be entirely separated or dammed up from the rest, by Stones, Turf, or any other such Materials as can be had, to retain the Water already in the Ditch, and also to prevent the running of more into it. This again being the Practice of the most skilful Flaxmen in *Flanders*, seems to confirm what has been advanced above, of the fermenting Juices of the Flax being carried too quickly away by the Currency of Lakes or Rivers; whereas in stagnate Water in a Ditch, these Juices are still retained in the Water about the Flax, and cause a regular and vigorous Fermentation; and, as it were, entering again in some measure into it, contribute very much to the quick rotting of the Straw, and the softening the Flax it self. The Silver or Sky Blue, as the *Flemings* call it, or the white, are the only Colours of Flax to be seen in that Part of
Flanders

Flanders where these Observations were made ; and indeed the first of these is the only Colour in Esteem there. When the *Flemings*, who are Judges of, and Dealers in Flax, see it of a very clear and white Colour, they immediately conclude, that it has been watered, through want of better Conveniency, in a River, Lake, or Pond ; and that it must be but poor, hard, and stubborn Stuff, or what they call *Mager*, which includes all these bad Qualities.

As to the Time that Flax should lie in the Water, or that Flax takes to be sufficiently watered in, there can be no certain Rule given, because of the various Circumstances that may concur either to hasten or retard this Work. If the Weather is hot, so will the Water of Consequence be also, and the Fermentation of the Flax will be the quicker and more vigorous. But if, on the contrary, the Weather proves cold, and consequently the Water ; or should any Quantity either of Rain or other Water come in accidentally upon the Flax, this would both retard and weaken the Fermentation thereof, and consequently delay the whole of the Work : And indeed, which is still worse, Flax, which, by the above Circumstances or Accidents, has not been well purged by a vigorous Fermentation in
the

the watering, remains ever afterwards hard and stubborn. Such Flax again, when spun into Yarn, and afterwards woven, the Cloth thereof must, and always doth, lose a great deal of the Substance in the bleaching; wherein the Linnen or Flax undergoes, as it were, a second Watering, and loses in this second, what, by a vigorous Fermentation, it ought to have been fully purged of in the first. It has been observed above, that coarse Flax is sooner watered than fine; which must still be remembered. The common Time allowed in *Flanders* for watering, is from six to ten Days, more or less, according to the above Circumstances or Accidents: But, notwithstanding this Rule, Flax has been found to be sufficiently watered in four Days; and again, it has been known to have lain fourteen Days in the Water. If the Weather is pretty warm, the fifth or sixth Day this Flax has been in the Water, the following Experiment may be made, to know if it is sufficiently done. Let a Man thrust his Arm into the Water, and pull out of the middle of one of the Sheaves a few Straws of the Flax; and having allowed them to dry, bend them. If they break instead of bending, and the Flax parts easily with the Straw, then the Flax is enough watered: But, on the contrary, if the Straw bends

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bends without breaking, and the Flax sticks fast to the Straw, it is not sufficiently done, and must lie longer; though the said Experiment must be always repeated once a Day afterwards, until the above Marks of its being enough done are found upon it. When the Flax is enough watered, a Man steps into the Water, and takes it out Sheaf by Sheaf, rinsing each in the Water, to wash off the contracted Slime and Filth. When all is taken out, it is set up upon end with the Roots downwards; and having so stood until the Water has dropped entirely from it, is then ready for Grassing.

Of Grassing.

It will not, perhaps, be thought needless or impertinent to introduce this Head of Grassing with some short Account of what Reasons are given to justify this Practice at all, or of what is proposed, and seemingly effected by it; in order to examine and answer a common, though mistaken and hurtful Opinion; *viz.* “ That
 “ it is not material whether Flax be fully
 “ watered or not: Because, *say they,*
 “ should Flax be under-watered, or not
 “ enough done, longer than ordinary
 “ Grassing rectifies the Mistakes, and an-
 “ swers

“fwers the propofed End of Watering.” But becaufe of the clofe Connexion between the Reafons given for Watering and Graffing, take both in their natural Order. The Reafons then for Watering are, firft, to purge the Flax, by the Fermentation in the Water, from certain Juices or Filth that it brings with it from the Soil : Which Juices are either prejudicial to the Flax, fimply confidered as Flax, or, as has been obferved above, are prejudicial in this refpect; *viz.* fhould thefe remain in the Flax after watering, yet this Flax being made into Linnen, they are not able to ftand the Bleaching or fecond Watering; but being thereby extracted and fpent, there is juft fo much of the Subftance of the Linnen loft; and by this Lofs all the juft Proportions, given it by the Tradesman or Weaver, altered. Secondly, by the right watering of Flax, is propofed, and alfo certainly effected, the rotting of the Boon or Straw, to caufe it to part eafily with the Flax afterwards in the fcutching or fwingling.

As all Flax watered according to the above Directions, will be found to be pretty much difcoloured, when taken out of the ftinking and putrified Water in which it has been lying; fo by Graffing is propofed
as

as it were the Bleaching of it, to bring it again to a tolerable good Colour, and at the same time, in some measure, to soften it by Showers of Rain, and the Heat of the Sun; and lastly, to stiffen or harden the rotten Straw, in order to prepare it still further for the previous bruising, or crushing, and rubbing it between the Hands before swingling. That long Grassing will contribute very much towards rotting the Straw, is true; but then those very Tokens or Marks, whereby 'tis known that Flax is sufficiently watered, shew, that it is by the Watering, and not the Grassing, that the rotting of the Straw ought to be effected. 'Tis indeed acknowledged, that, should Flax be taken out of the Water, by Mistake or Ignorance, before being sufficiently watered, longer than ordinary Grassing would be the best Remedy that could be applied; though not at all sufficient wholly to remove the Evil, or to justify that Opinion, "That it is indifferent whether Flax be fully watered or not." But the over-watering of Flax is still of worse Consequence, as rotting and rendering it unfit for any Use whatever; and therefore cannot be too carefully avoided, as being the most dangerous Extream. Next, as to the Method of Grassing: The Flax having stood after watering,

ing,

ing, as mentioned above, until the Water has dropped entirely from it, it ought to be carried to that Part of the Meadow or Stubble Ground, that lies driest, and most exposed to the Sun; and being there unbound, to be spread Sheaf by Sheaf, very thin, and in equal Rows, upon the Grass, with the Roots all one way, and as even as possible. And thus it ought to lie without being turned, until the Upper-side be once thoroughly wet with Rain, and be again become perfectly dry. When dry, it ought to be turned, that the other Side may receive the next Shower that falls, and be brought to an equal Colour with the Side that lay formerly uppermost. After it has acquired the said Colour, and is perfectly dry, it may be taken up, bound in pretty large Sheaves, and so carried home to a dry Barn, or rather, if it can be had, a boarded Floor. The turning of Flax is a Matter of no great Difficulty, and is commonly performed by the Help of a long and small Stick or Wand, thrust gently under the Flax, to raise it up upon the Roots, and so turned over. As to the Time that Flax should lie on the Grass, the *Flemings* observe this only Rule; viz. That it must lie until, by Showers of Rain, it hath been thoroughly wet on

T

both

both Sides: and these Showers, they say, not only bleach, but also soften it. It may be seen then, there can be no certain Time prefixed. It has been known grassed in ten Days, and at other times to have lain a Month for want of Rain: And indeed in this last Case it might perhaps be found necessary to turn the Flax oftner than is above directed. The *Flemings* oftner use Stubble than Meadow Grounds, to lay their Flax upon: However, what Instances have been known of this kind, were rather from Necessity than Choice; though indeed they seem also to think it indifferent, and of no Consequence, upon which of these Grounds their Flax lies, or, as we call it, is grassed. But by mentioning of this here, nothing is further intended, than to prevent any unnecessary Scruple that People might have to use Stubble in case of Necessity.

Of Breaking.

By the breaking or bruising of Flax nothing can possibly be proposed or effected but this; *viz.* The Flax being watered, and the Boon or Straw, by the watering alone, or by the watering and grassing together, being sufficiently rotten,
and

and ready to part with the Flax it self; yet the Straw, though rotten, being yet entire, and not to be easily separated from the Flax, before undergoing some further Operation; that is, before the Straw be broke in different Places of the Stalk (which is commonly performed by crushing and rubbing it between their Hands) the whole Design of the breaking seems only to be to soften and flatten both Flax and Straw; which last (being of a fuller and stronger Body in *Flanders*, than what is commonly produced here) would be apt to cut the Harle or Flax it self in the crushing and rubbing, unless it were first softened by the Breaks, or a Miln. Were it not that the Straw, being fully dry, hard, and sharp, would be apt to snap, and cut the Flax in the crushing, or that the Flax it self (which cannot be made too soft even before heckling) received some Benefit by the beating or bruising by the Breaks, or a Miln, the crushing and rubbing of the Straw before swingling, might be performed directly without the previous Assistance of Breaks. This then agreed to, that the breaking or bruising of Flax is necessary, either for the softening the Flax it self, or to soften the Straw, and prepare it for the previous crushing and rubbing

before fwingling, the Question ftill remains, Whether the Breaks or Mallets (of which there are feveral in the Country) a Miln refembling an Oil-Miln, of which the Tru-
 ftees have a Model from *Flanders*, or the Machine with the Rollers, lately invented here, would answer beft thefe propofed Ends, and, at the fame time, with the moft Expedition, and confequently Advantage to the Perfons who employ them? That the Breaks or Mallets feem to answer the propofed End of foftening both Straw and Flax, and are alfo moft commonly ufed, is certain: That the Miln alfo answers the fame Design fully as well, and is as, if not more, expeditious in *Flanders*, is likewise certain. But whether the Rollers will prove as good, better, or more expeditious than any of the above mentioned Machines, Time will determine. They feem rather to be very well contrived for to perform the Part of crufhing and rubbing before fwingling, than for the previous bruifing and foftening: for, 'tis certain, if one will narrowly obferve, and reflect upon, the Operation of the Rollers, he will find, that the Straw is indeed very much broke by the Notches or Teeth of them; but then the Flax it felf is not at all equally bruifed and foftened, as is
 done

done either by the Breaks or a Miln. The making a sufficient Number either of Milns or Rollers by the Publick, to serve the Country, would be attended with a considerable Expence: Should a few of either be set up by private Persons for their own Use, this, as the raising of Flax is yet almost wholly in the Hands of private Gentlemen, might answer them without their grudging the Expence. But should the raising of Flax (as it is to be hoped it will in a few Years) be generally practised by Country People, how are they to go to Work? The Wages of those who attend the Trustees Milns or Rollers, fall too heavy; and should they employ private Gentlemen their Machines, it must still be worse, seeing the Servants must not only be paid, but likewise a Gratification given to the Gentleman for the Use of his Machine. This additional Charge upon the Flax must be again paid by the Purchaser in the Market, and falls at last upon the Manufacturer. The Breaks then answering the proposed End of bruising and softening, though perhaps not so expeditious as either the Milns or Rollers, may be recommended to the Use of Country People, because easily wrought with, and already used to good enough Purpose

in the Country; and a Countryman will rather, in the Infancy of a Trade, employ his Son, Daughter, Man or Maid-servant, a whole Day in breaking of Flax at home, than be at a very small Expence in having the double of the Quantity done by another, from his own House, in a Method he does not understand. Should the Breaks again take place, the Charge of providing the Country with Milns or Roliers at once, will be shifted, until by Experience it's found which of the above Methods is most advantageous; and surely no Man whatever will grudge, in the mean time, to provide himself with one or two Breaks, which will not cost him above six or eight Pence *per Piece*.

*Of Crushing and Rubbing, and Swingling
or Scutching.*

THE Flax and Straw being sufficiently bruised and softened by the Breaks, or any other Machine, the next thing to be done is, the crushing and rubbing them between the Hands, in order to break the Straw in different Places of the Stalk, that it may the more easily be separated from the Flax, and with less Waste in the swingling. The crushing and rubbing is properly

properly the Work of the Swinger, and is very soon and easily performed; but as it is said not to be practised in this Country, take the following Account of it: The Flax being bruised and softened by the Breaks, the Swinger takes as much of it as he can conveniently hold with one Hand; and grasping this Handful at one End with his left Hand, he rests the same upon his Knee, and taking hold of the Flax about the middle with his right Hand, he crushes and rubs the Flax between both Hands as hard as he can, to break and disengage the Straw from the Flax in as many different Places of the Stalk as is possible; and having done with one Place, shifts both Hands gradually lower, until the whole is finished. The Advantage of crushing and rubbing before swinging is this: The Straw being crushed and broke in different Places of the Stalk, these broken Pieces of Straw hang in a great measure loose upon the Harle or Flax, and as it were projecting a little from it, receive each Stroak with the Scutching-handle, and are thereby stripped off, while the Flax it self is but slightly touched, and remains entire. But in the Way that is practised here, the Straw being whole and entire when the first Stroak is to be given with the Scutch-

ing-handle in the swingling, the Flax and Straw suffer equally by each Stroak given, and whole or Parts of Stalks of both Flax and Straw fall frequently to the Ground together. The Swingling-board that the Trustees have had lately from *Flanders*, does not differ materially from these already used here by our own best Swinglers. Both may be used to the same Advantage by a good Swinger, notwithstanding some little Differences not worth taking notice of here.

Of Heckling.

By heckling of Flax is proposed the splitting or dividing the Product of each particular Stalk, which remains in a great measure whole, and one entire Body, after swingling, and the branching out and separating one from another, each particular Fibre contained therein, and as yet clinging together, in order to make it fit for spinning. It is not now proposed to mention every little Knack belonging to this Business; nor is it, indeed, possible to give any tolerable Account of the Slight of Hand that is absolutely necessary and requisite in a good Heckler. There is a *Dutchwoman* now in the Country, who
deserves

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deserves to be taken particular Notice of ; from whom one may learn more, by seeing her work half an Hour, than by reading any Account that might be given in Writing of her Method of Working. The said Woman has now in her Custody a complete Set of Heckles, lately brought from *Flanders* for the Trustees: The Set consists of five Heckles of different Degrees of Fineness, through all or Part of which different Kinds of Flax must be drawn, according to their respective Qualities or Degrees of Fineness. The Teeth of the two finest of these Heckles, though not extraordinary sharp or fine, yet seem to be thicker set than any in this Country. The extraordinary Labour in beating and rubbing the Flax before heckling, with some other Particulars, as performed by the said *Dutchwoman*, deserve very well the Observation of every body who desires to understand or follow that Business. There is also a Miln lately brought from *Brabant*, and belonging to the Trustees, which is at present employed and approved of by the said *Dutchwoman* at *Georgia*. This Miln answers the proposed Ends, and saves the vast Trouble, of beating and rubbing the Flax with their Hands before heckling, and is a great deal
more

more expeditious. None can be so sensible of the great Advantage proceeding from the extraordinary Labour, bestowed by good Hecklers upon the softening the Flax, as they who must spin and weave it afterwards. The Spinner finds it vastly more easy to spin, and that her Yarn has a better Skin, and is stronger, than that made of coarser Flax. The Weaver again, if it is well spun, finds it not only strong, but very easy to make good Cloth ; as being smoother, more pliant, and going closer together in the Linnen, than Yarn of Flax, either naturally coarse and hard, or not enough softened in the heckling, can possibly be made to do. There is still one thing to be taken notice of, which seems to be equally neglected, or not considered, by all Hecklers, as well foreign, as those of our own Country : The Teeth of the two first or coarsest Heckles are, perhaps, twice or thrice as thick as the Teeth of the finest Heckle. That the Teeth of the first and second Heckles must be sparser set (as we find they always are) than those of the finer Heckles, is true ; and that they ought also to be somewhat thicker or stronger, because of the greater Stress they endure in the heckling,

ling, is reasonable ; but to make them so thick as they commonly are, is ridiculous : For it ought to be considered, that the single Produce of each Stalk, and not the whole that is struck into the Heckle at once, is to be looked upon as the Thing to be branched out, and divided into as many and small Parts as possible, or the Nature of the Thing requires. If then the Diameter of one Tooth of the Heckle is greater than that of the Stalk of Flax, the Heckle cannot split it regularly from the one End to the other, as is proposed, but must break and burst it, so soon as it is struck into it ; which must occasion great Waste of Flax, and turn the far greater Part of it, or almost the whole of it, to Tow. It remains then reasonable, that the Difference between a coarse and fine Heckle should rather consist in the Sparseness or Closeness of the setting of the Teeth, than in the Thickness or Smalness of each particular Tooth ; and though the Teeth of the first and second Heckles must necessarily be made somewhat thicker and stronger than those of the finer Heckles, because of the greater Stress they have to endure ; yet this Difference ought to be as little as the Nature of the Thing will allow.

The

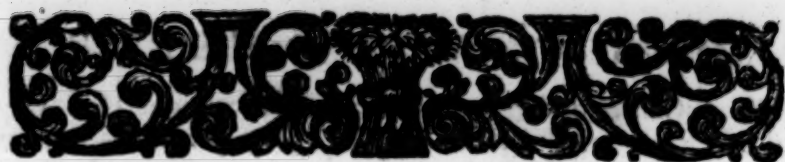
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The Set of Heckles from *Flanders*, though the best that are used there, are not so fine and sharp in the Teeth as is thought they ought to be, or as good *English* Heckles are. And it is thought, if the Teeth of a Heckle are but strong enough, they cannot well be too small or fine.



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